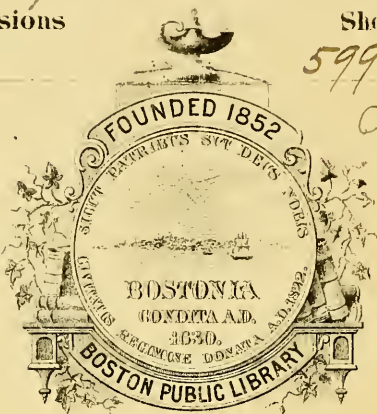


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THE
HORTICULTURE
OF
BOSTON AND VICINITY.

BY
MARSHALL P. WILDER.

THE HORTICULTURE
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BY
MARSHALL PINCKNEY WILDER,

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY, BOSTON.

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WITH THE RESPECTS OF

Marshall P. Wilder

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THE HORTICULTURE OF BOSTON AND VICINITY.¹

By MARSHALL PINCKNEY WILDER, Ph. D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

“Hail, Horticulture! Heaven-ordained,
Of every art the source,
Which man has polished, life sustained,
Since time commenced his course.
Where waves thy wonder-working wand,
What splendid scenes disclose;
The blasted heath, the arid strand,
Outbloom the gorgeous rose!”—*Fessenden*.

Boston and its environs have been famous in history as the battle grounds of freedom and the home of free schools; famous as the abode of high culture and good taste, and equally famous for elegant gardens, fine flowers and luscious fruits. Horticulture embraces within its compass not only fruits and flowers, but whatever pertains to ornamental culture, garden, orchard and landscape. The horticulture of Boston, to whose shrine its votaries have brought their offerings, and in whose temples they have worshipped for half a century, has embraced not only the city but its surroundings. Horticulture seems to have been the counterpart of a high civilization in all ages, forming in its study and practice the most perfect union of the most useful and beautiful art that mankind has ever known; and this seems to have been so appreciated by our own people from the earliest settlement down to

¹ Prepared for the Boston Memorial Series, Volume IV.

the present time. As to the fruits of this region previous to the coming of the colonists, we know but little.* Suffice it to say, that whether Lief and Thorwald, the Scandanavians, did or did not land on our shores in the tenth century, as the Sagas have it, and here saw grapes so abundant that they gave this land the name of Vinland, we know that the vine was found on our coast by Champlain, six centuries after, and that it prospers through twenty-five degrees of latitude; and, should the phylloxera continue its devastations in Europe, our continent may become literally the Vine-land of the world. No nation possesses such wonderful resources for the culture of fruits; no people have made such rapid progress in the science of Pomology; and to Boston and vicinity may be traced primarily the wide-spread interest in Horticulture that now pervades our continent. Nor has this enterprise declined. Massachusetts retains her renown for her skill in horticultural science, and her interest in its advancement.

The earliest account that we have of the fruits and flowers of New England is given by the pilgrims at Plymouth, where, in addition to Indian corn and other grains they also found fruits and flowers which were indigenous to the soil. "Here are grapes," wrote Gov. Edward Winslow, in 1621, "white and red, and very sweet and strong, also; strawberries, gooseberries, raspberries; plums of three sorts, white, black, and red, being almost as good as a damson; abundance of roses, white, red and damask, single, but very sweet."¹

The first orchard of which we have any account in our vicinity was that of the Rev. William Blackstone (Blaxton), planted on the west slope of Beacon Hill,²

* See Dr. Asa Gray's chapter in Boston Memorial, Volume I.

¹ Young's Chronicle of the Pilgrims, p. 234.

² Boston Memorial, Vol. I., p. 84.

near Charles Street, being a portion of the six acres reserved from the fifty acres which he sold to the inhabitants of Shawmut, and from which he removed in 1634 to what is now Lonsdale, Rhode Island, where may still be seen, near his favorite resort, "Study Hill," remains of trees planted by him, and from which were disseminated apples, now under cultivation, by the name of Blackstone. The first planting of fruits by the colonists of Massachusetts Bay, we believe, was the orchard of Gov. John Endicott, of Salem, about the year 1628, a pear tree of which still survives and bears fruit at the present time. From this nursery we find that as late as 1648 Endicott sold 500 apple trees to William Trask, for which he received two hundred and fifty acres of land, *an acre of land for two apple trees*, a noble illustration of the appreciation in which fruits were held by the colonists at that time.

The planting of fruits by the colonists under Governor Winthrop, was, we presume, soon after their arrival, or the year 1630, for we find in the outfits of their cargo, seeds and stones of fruits particularly mentioned.

We find that, next to Blackstone, Governor Winthrop was the most prominent in the horticulture of Boston, having, in addition to his farms at Governor's Island, a garden opposite the foot of School street, his house being a little north of the Old South Church, and was demolished by the British in 1775. Winthrop had frequent correspondence with Endicott in regard to fruit trees, as had his son John, Governor of Connecticut. Among the early records in regard to the production of fruit by the colonists, is an account of a good store of pippins from Governor Winthrop's garden.

From the early settlements on our coast orchards

and gardens were considered as among the most desirable acquisitions of landholders. Among the earliest of which we have notes were the orchard of Blackstone, the nurseries of Gov. Endicott at Salem, the orchard and vineyard of Gov. Winthrop, and one hundred and fifty years later the orchards described by Paul Dudley in Roxbury, the orchards and nurseries of John Hancock on or near the site of the present State House, and of Judge John Lowell, who died in 1802, at Roxbury, and who is supposed to have built one of the first greenhouses in this part of the country. The Judge was father of John Lowell, the distinguished agriculturist and pomologist, of whom we shall speak hereafter.

The colonial legislature granted to John Winthrop, then Governor of the colony, a section of land in our harbor known as Conant's Island, but afterwards as Governor's Island, on condition that he should plant thereon a vineyard, and should pay as rent therefor a hogshead of wine. Whether this vineyard was planted or not we have no means of ascertaining, but the contract was afterwards altered to make the rent two bushels of apples a year, one for the Governor and one for the General Court.

What the intermediate progress of horticulture in our vicinity may have been after the time when Endicott planted his pear tree at Salem, and Winthrop his orchard on Conant's Island, we can not positively determine. But we find in the "Philosophical Transactions, London, 1734," a paper communicated to the Royal Society by Hon. Paul Dudley, of Roxbury, Chief Justice of Massachusetts, entitled "Some Observations on the Plants of New England, with Remarkable Instances of the Power of Vegetation," which gives us an account of the

size and culture of fruits and vegetables growing in Roxbury in 1726, as follows :

“ The Plants of England, as well as those of the Fields and Orchards, as those of the Garden that have been brought over hither, suit mighty well with our Soil, and grow here to great Perfection.

“ Our apples are, without Doubt, as good as those of England, and much fairer to look to, and so are the Pears, but we have not got all the Sorts.

“ Our Peaches do rather excel those of England, and then we have not the Trouble or Expense of Walls for them ; for our Peach Trees are all Standards, and I have had in my own Garden seven or eight Hundred fine Peaches of the Rare-ripes, growing at a Time on one Tree.

“ Our people, of late Years, have run so much upon Orchards, that in a village near Boston, consisting of about forty Families, they made near three Thousand Barrels of Cyder. This was in the Year 1721. And in another Town, of two Hundred Families, in the same year I am credibly informed, they made near ten Thousand Barrels. Some of our Apple Trees will make six, some have made seven Barrels of Cyder, but this is not common ; and the Apples will yield from seven to nine Bushels for a Barrel of Cyder.

“ A good Apple Tree, with us, will measure from six to ten Foot in Girt. I have seen a fine Pearmain, at a Foot from the Ground, measure ten Feet and four inches round. This Tree, in one Year, has borne thirty-eight Bushels (by Measure) of as fine Pearmains, as ever I saw in England. A Kentish Pippin, at three foot from the Ground, seven Foot in Girt ; a Golden Rossetin, six Foot round. The largest Apple Tree that I could find, was ten Foot and six Inches round, but this was no Graft.

“ An Orange Pear Tree grows the largest and yields the fairest Fruit. I know one of them near forty Foot high, that measures six Foot and six Inches in Girt, a Yard from the Ground, and has borne thirty Bushels at a Time ; I have a Warden Pear Tree, that measures five Foot six inches round. One of my Neighbors has a Bergamot Pear Tree that was brought from England in a Box, about the Year 1643, that now measures six Foot about, and has borne twenty-two Bushels of fine Pears in one Year.

“ Our Peach Trees are large and fruitful, and bear commonly in three Years from the Stone. I have one in my Garden of twelve Years Growth, that measures two Foot and an Inch in Girt a Yard from the Ground, which, two Years ago, bore me near a Bushel of

fine Peaches. Our common Cherries are not so good as the Kentish Cherries of England, and we have no Dukes or Heart Cherries, unless in two or three Gardens."

One of the ancient gardens of Boston of which we have a distinct record is that of Gamaliel Wayte, in Summer street, on the site of the store of C. F. Hovey & Co.¹ He came over with Edward Hutchinson, and is described as a planter in the records, which probably meant farmer or gardener, the latter most likely to be the fact, for we find by the Book of Possessions this land is described as Wayte's Garden, and that it was noted for the superior excellence of its fruits. This was planted as early or before 1642. Wayte had other estates in Boston but we know not that he dwelt here himself.² Gamaliel seems to have been one of our earliest horticulturists and had the ability not only to plant but to partake of its fruits, for Judge Sewall in his Diary states that he lived to the age of eighty-seven, and not long before death was blessed with several new teeth.

This estate passed into the hands of Leonard Vassal, a name which is honorably connected with the Massachusetts colony from its early period, thence to John Hubbard and Frederick W. Geyer. Here once resided, in the family of Mr. Geyer, Mrs. Maryatt, whose gardens at Wimbledon were at one time the finest in England for their beauty and variety of flowering plants, and we may reasonably conjecture, says Mr. Amory, that "the taste and skill that produce such marvels were nurtured and fostered in her earlier days among the flower beds of Summer street." She died in 1855 at the age of 81. This estate passed in 1800 to Samuel P. Gardner, Esq., the father of our respected

¹ See Boston Memorial, Vol. II., p. xxxi.

² Letter of Hon. Thomas C. Amory.

merchant and fellow-citizen, John L. Gardner, and from him the latter probably inherited that love of the fruits and flowers which for many years have distinguished his conservatories in Brookline, and graced the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Of this estate the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop remarks, "No garden in Boston had finer fruit fifty years ago, and it was cultivated and cared for with the highest intelligence and skill. The best specimens of all the old varieties of pears were to be found there, and Mr. Gardner had a peculiar art of preserving them from decay and bringing them out after the season for them was over." How many of Wayte's trees or plants survived till these grounds came into the possession of Mr. Gardner we know not, but we have a diagram of the garden, and the lists of its fruits in 1811, furnished us by Mr. John L. Gardner, and as late as 1870 there was an old pear tree in the yard that was in a thrifty condition.

Summer street was for a long time one of the most delightful in the city, and well merited its name from the overhanging branches of ornamental trees and the beauty and fruits of the gardens attached to the mansions of its wealthy occupants.

Here, in the early part of this century, were the residences of Gov. James Sullivan, afterwards of William Gray, Joseph Barrell, Benjamin Bussey, Nathaniel Goddard, Henry Hill, and David Ellis, father of Rev. Dr. George E. Ellis, whose gardens were supplied with the fruits and flowers of those days, and where peaches and foreign grapes, and the old pears of which we have spoken, ripened every year.

Perrin May, a retired old merchant of Boston, was a skilful cultivator of fruits. His garden was on Washington street, at the South End, where he produced

remarkable specimens of fruits, especially the pear, which he attributed partly to the entrapping of cats and fertilizing the soil with them. Of the early pears, which soon decayed at the core, he said they should be eaten by a chronometer.

We have no detailed history of the progress of horticulture in New England from the early days of which we have written. But we find in 1730 that apples from Blaxton's orchard were for sale in Boston market. In 1770 we find the following advertisement in the Boston Gazette, by the gardener of John Hancock, the first signer to the ever memorable Declaration of American Independence, and first Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

"To be sold by George Spriggs, Gardener to John Hancock, Esq., a Large Assortment of English Fruit Trees, grafted and inoculated of the best and richest kinds of Cherry Trees, Pear Trees, Plumb Trees, Peach Trees, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Lime Trees, Apple Trees, grafted and ungrafted, and sundry Mulberry Trees, which will be fit to transplant the next year, and Medleys."

John Hancock's nursery and pasture were near the site of the present State House;¹ and his garden and orchard surrounded his princely mansion. Governor Hancock's garden is said to have been one of great note, having received constant accessions from England. Miss Eliza Greenleaf Gardner, a distant relative of Mrs. Hancock, who still lives, was for many years an inmate of the Hancock house, and states that—

"The grounds were laid out in ornamental flower-beds, bordered with box; box trees, of large size, with a great variety of fruit, among which were several immense mulberry trees."—*Drake's Old Landmarks of Boston*, p. 339, 340.

¹ See Boston Memorial, Vol. II., p. xlv.

Among the prominent gardens which existed in Boston previous to the Revolution, was that of Governor Thomas Hutchinson.* This was on Garden Court, extending back to Hanover and Fleet streets. These grounds are said to have been extensive, and tradition informs us were well stocked with the choice fruits and flowers of those days. His splendid residence is minutely and graphically described by Mrs. Lydia Maria Child in the "Rebels." This was located next to the celebrated house of Sir H. Frankland, which, like others in that region, are reputed to have had fine gardens, their possessors being of the elite of society, and North Square, the rival or court end of the town.¹

Gov. Hutchinson had also a residence on Milton Hill, with orchards and a garden. This estate was confiscated, and became successively the residence of James Warren, Barney Smith, Jonathan Russell, and now of Miss Rosalie G. Russell. Hutchinson appears to have been fond of rural life and was himself a practical cultivator, having grafted with his own hand a tree for Mrs. Jeremy Smith with the St. Michael pear. This tree, with some of the remains of his orchards, survived until nearly the present time. Gov. Hutchinson planted the old button-wood trees on the sides of the road of Milton Hill.²

Among the gardens in the early part of this century were those scattered over Pemberton Hill from Southack's court, now Howard street, to Beacon street up and around the capitol. Here was the garden of Doctor James Lloyd, father of our Senator in Congress, running back to Somerset street, where is still

* Boston Memorial, Vol. II., pp. xi, 526.

¹ Old Landmarks of Boston, page 166 and 167.

² Letter of Edmund J. Baker.

standing the house built by his son, the Hon. James Lloyd.

From Southack court, now Howard street, many of the residences over Cotton, Pemberton, and Beacon Hill, and around the State House, had gardens. Here dwelt Rev. John Cotton, Gov. Endicott, and at a later day, Gardiner Greene, Wm. Phillips, and at the corner of Beacon and Tremont, Samuel Eliot, grandfather of President Eliot, of Harvard College.

Gov. James Bowdoin's garden extended from the corner of Beacon and Bowdoin streets over to what is now Ashburton street, and Dr. John Joy's from Beacon to Mt. Vernon street.

On Tremont street, nearly opposite King's Chapel, was the estate of Lieut.-Gov. Wm. Phillips, formerly the residence of Peter Faneuil,* of Faneuil Hall memory, whose gardens and grounds are described as being very fine. Here, it is said, was built by Andrew Faneuil, uncle of Peter, the first greenhouse in New England. Miss Quincy, in her memoir, thus describes the place :

“The deep courtyard ornamented by flowers and shrubs was divided into upper and lower plats. The terraces which rose from the paved court were supported by massive walls of granite, and a grasshopper glittered on the summer-house, which commanded a view only second to Beacon hill.”—*Drake's Old Landmarks*, page 54 ; also, *Miss Quincy's Letter*.

But the most conspicuous and extensive, and elegant garden of those days was that of Gardiner Greene, who also had one of the early greenhouses in Boston. The grounds were terraced and planted with vines, fruits, ornamental trees, flowering shrubs and plants, and were to me, when I visited them, sixty-five years ago, a scene

* See Boston Memorial, Vol. II., pp. 259, 523, and the view in Vol. IV.

of beauty and enchantment I shall never forget.¹ Here were growing in the open air Black Hamburg and White Chasselas grapes, apricots, nectarines, peaches, pears and plums in perfection, presenting a scene which made a deep impression on my mind, and which gave me some of those strong incentives that have governed me in the cultivation of fruits and flowers. Here were many ornamental trees brought from foreign lands; one of which, the *Salisburia adiantifolia*, the Japan Ginkgo tree, was removed through the personal efforts of the late Dr. Jacob Bigelow and planted on the upper city mall where it now stands.

Nearly down to Tremont street was the house of the late Doctor Samuel A. Shurtleff, one of the early vice-presidents of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, in whose garden was originated the Shurtleff grape and other fruits, now growing on his estate in Brookline; on the latter estate were raised from seed the President, General Grant, Admiral Farragut, and other Pears, varieties which should be more generally known.

One of the largest gardens of that day was that of Governor James Bowdoin, to which we have referred. He had a large house and an extensive lot of land on Beacon street at the corner of Bowdoin street, reaching quite over the hill to what is now Ashburton Place. There he had a garden abounding in the finest fruits, pears and peaches, apples and grapes. Hon. James Bowdoin, his son, resided on Milk street, in the house where our honored citizen, the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, was born, known as the "Mansion House." This garden extended back almost to Franklin street, and was filled with fruit

¹ See frontispiece of Boston Memorial, Vol. IV.

trees of the best sorts. Here General Henry Dearborn, of revolutionary memory, who married the widow of Mr. Bowdoin, resided for a while, and his son, General H. A. S. Dearborn, the first President of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, was familiar with that garden, and from it he probably gained some of the zeal that characterized him as a leader in horticulture. Of this garden, says Mr. Winthrop: "There were no more delicious Saint Michael, Brown Beurre, Monsieur Jean, or Saint Germain pears to be found any where in Boston than I have eaten from those trees." Mr. Bowdoin had also a large farm at Dorchester, now known as Mount Bowdoin, where he had an orchard of apple and pear trees. He also experimented with fruit trees on Naushon Island, now the property of the Hon. John M. Forbes. His main attention was, however, given to horses, cows and sheep; the breeding of the latter being still continued. This estate was in the care of the father of Mr. Winthrop for many years after the death of his uncle, Mr. Bowdoin; and, says Mr. Winthrop, "I have worn clothes made of Naushon wool." The cheese from this Island was quite celebrated more than half a century ago; and Mr. Winthrop adds: "I doubt if any one in Massachusetts did more for Agriculture and Horticulture at that period than James Bowdoin, the son of the Governor."¹

Another garden worthy of record, which stood on what is now the site of the Revere House, was that of Kirk Boott, an eminent merchant and one of the founders of Lowell. It was the home of John Wright and William Boott. Here, fifty years ago, was a good garden with fruit trees and vines in which were grow-

¹ Letter of Hon. Robert C. Winthrop.

ing in the open air foreign grapes and other tender fruits, which now succeed only under glass. Here was also a greenhouse with a choice collection of plants. Some of these were obtained from the Duke of Bedford and others in England through the acquaintance of Dr. Francis Boott, a brother, and a celebrated botanist in London. The collection of Amaryllises and Orchids was the best in the country, the latter having been the first attempt in New England for the culture of this tribe of plants. Here forty years ago was a magnificent plant of the *Phaius grandiflora* (*Bletia Tankervilleæ*), then a rare plant. Mr. Boott gave his plants to the Hon. John A. Lowell, from whence some of the Orchids went to the collection of Edward S. Rand, of Dedham, and to which he made large additions by importation from Europe, and were finally given by him and his friend James Lawrence to the Botanic Garden at Cambridge. E. S. Rand, Jr., had an extensive collection of Orchids, some of which are now in the grand collection of Frederick L. Ames, at North Easton, which has been by importation at great expense so much enlarged as to occupy three houses for their growth, and is scarcely second to any in this country. Mr. Ames is one of the most enterprising and generous contributors to the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, having, in addition to these, a fernery, a stove, a conservatory, two graperies, a rose house, a propagating and a vegetable house. He has for years received from Europe all the new and desirable plants soon after their introduction. Some of his Orchids have cost from 100 to 180 guineas a plant.

Other old gardens on Summer street and vicinity were those of Amory, Salisbury, and of Edmund Quincy, running back to Bedford street; Judge Jackson's, on the corner of Bedford and Chauncy

streets, where the building of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics' Association now stands; and the Rowe and Barrell estates, on what is now Chauncy street; a part of the latter, at the foot of Franklin street, being drained by Mr. Barrell, and converted into a garden.

Mr. George W. Lyman's recollection of the gardens and open grounds of Boston, is as follows:

"On Green and Chardon streets was Mr. Samuel Parkman's estate, with a large garden. On Green street that of Samuel Gore, and one other large estate, owner's name forgotten. On Bowdoin square and Chardon street, estate of Gov. Gore, garden and land, the estate of Joseph Coolidge, 2d, and Kirk Boott. On Cambridge and Middlecot, now Bowdoin street, was the large estate of Joseph Coolidge, the elder, of Mr. Mackey, and much vacant land on the west. On what is now Tremont street, the gardens of Dr. Danforth, Dr. Loyd, Gardiner Greene and Gov. Phillips, extending to highland, and including the Bowdoin estate, and perhaps others. On Beacon Hill was a monument, with a gilt eagle on its top. I regret the destruction of this hill and monument, but it was invaded and destroyed by parties known as improvers, and this healthy gravel and fertile loam, as well as that on Pemberton Hill, was removed and dumped into the filthy mill pond. I hope the only remaining classical hill, the Copps, will be preserved for all time. On Summer street was the garden of William Gray, who defined 'enough' as 'a little more;' that of Benjamin Bussey, and that of Samuel P. Gardner, which bore some very fine pears not now known. On Beacon street was the large estate of Gov. Hancock, extending to Belknap, changed by Cornelius Coolidge to Joy street, and northerly to Mt. Vernon street, and of Dr. Joy, from Beacon to Mt. Vernon streets. There was south of Walnut street a large lot of land extending to Charles River, with a small powder house and a spring of water on the same."

Writes Mr. Lyman, under his own hand, May 24, 1880, "this lot is now covered with houses and streets."

"You will perceive that the old town of Boston is very much changed from what it was at the date of my memorandum. In my opinion it was a much pleasanter place to reside in than what it is at present. I was pleased with your kindly recollection of me, and I

hope you will continue to enjoy your fondness for horticulture, flowers, etc., for many years.

I remain your friend and servant,

GEO. W. LYMAN."

The great event in the progress of our horticulture during the present century was the establishment of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1829. With this there arose a new era in the science of American Horticulture, that has not only extended its influences all over our own continent, but has reached, enriched, beautified and energized other portions of the world. "Its first president was Gen. Henry Alexander Scammel Dearborn, whose name will ever be gratefully remembered, and to whom we are more indebted than to any other man, in its early history, for its prestige and popularity, both at home and abroad. From its first president down to the present time the Society has been fortunate in securing gentlemen to fill the chair, all of whom have been lovers of rural art. Dearborn, Cook, Vose, Walker, Cabot, Breck, and Stickney have gone before us, but, thanks to a kind Providence, Hovey, Hyde, Strong, Parkman, Gray, Hayes, and the writer, are still spared to labor in carrying out the beneficent designs of its noble founders."¹ But, perhaps, the most beneficial act of the Society was in founding the Mount Auburn Cemetery, that "Garden of Graves," where lie so many of the loved and lost ones of this community, and from which the Society has received already large sums of money, and is entitled to a perpetual share of its income in the future. And to repeat the words uttered on a former occasion: "Be it ever

¹ Mr. Wilder's Address at the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, September, 1879.

remembered that to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society the public are indebted for the foundation and consecration of Mount Auburn Cemetery."¹

While we have no space to dwell on our long preserved Common with its lawns, its malls, fountains and monuments, we must not forget the Public Garden of Boston. The origin of this may be traced to the desire of a few of her citizens who were interested in horticultural improvements and rural embellishments, but more especially in the establishment of a Botanic or a Public Garden, similar to those of the cities of the old world. Among these gentlemen was Mr. Horace Gray, father of our Chief Justice Gray, to whose great enterprise and indomitable perseverance we are, perhaps, more indebted than to any other man for the original idea for our Public Garden. Mr. Gray had a small conservatory attached to his town house in Kingston street, supplied from his country greenhouses at Brighton, where he had grapehouses with curved roofs, of which he was a great advocate. Mr. Gray, in 1839, with a few associates, obtained from the city a lease of the present site for a Botanic Garden, upon which a greenhouse was built and the grounds partially laid out and planted with a variety of ornamental trees and plants. A company was organized, of which Mr. Gray was chairman of the proprietors, and went zealously to work. A very large circus building situated just back of the corner, west of Beacon and Charles streets, was converted into an immense conservatory for plants and birds. This had four galleries, to each of which plants were assigned according to a proper classification of their character.

¹ Mr. Wilder's Address at the laying of the Corner Stone of Horticultural Hall, on School Street, Sept. 14, 1844.

This was a place of great attraction for the public until its destruction by fire, when the entire collection was lost. The following extract is from a Boston paper of that date, and will give some idea of its character :

“ THE CONSERVATORY.—We advise our friends who are as usual seeking amusement during the Christmas holidays, not to omit looking in at the Public Conservatory. There are above one thousand *Camellia Japonica* plants, some of the largest now in full splendor, and others on the point of bursting their beautiful buds. Among them are at least twenty full grown trees, ten to thirty years old. It is well known that the former possessor of this superb collection of *Camellias*, Marshall P. Wilder, of Dorchester, spared neither pains nor expense to procure the finest plants from the justly celebrated nurseries in Europe, and that the most recent and most highly estimated seedling varieties are comprised in it. But it is not too well known that one of his motives for disposing of this collection to the society, at a great pecuniary sacrifice to himself, was the desire that his fellow-citizens might conveniently and frequently enjoy the pleasure of viewing it. It is calculated that during the next five or six weeks, several thousand *Camellia* blossoms will expand, hundreds are now in full bloom, and contrast beautifully with the dark glossy foliage. Several of the *Acacia* tribe, the pride of the Flora of New South Wales, are likewise in beauty, as is also the fine *Poinsettia pulcherrima*, named in compliment to our minister in Mexico, Mr. Poinsett, who sent it thence to Charleston in 1828, whence it found its way to Europe. This plant was presented by the Hon. John Lowell, of Roxbury. We are also informed that the society has recently received ten or twelve cases of plants from Rio Janeiro, containing about one hundred varieties of the curious *air plants* now attracting so much attention in Europe ; most of these are beginning to vegetate in a small stove erected for this purpose below ; these will, no doubt, be exhibited in the Conservatory as they come into flower. We trust the public will not fail liberally to support this establishment, which, although now in its infancy, promises to become the pride and ornament of this wealthy and polished city.”

Among the plants destroyed was one whose history may be noted. It was a large, Double White *Camellia*, rooted from a cutting by Dr. Dixwell, in his study, now

Allston street, and purchased of him by the writer about fifty years since for the sum of thirty dollars. This Camellia was burnt down nearly to its root, but like the fabled goddess springing from the fire, it afterwards sprouted up into growth again. It then went to Mr. Jonathan French, of Roxbury, and thence to William E. Baker, Ridge Hill Farm, Wellesley, where it is now in a green old age. The adjacent grounds were filled up and the garden enlarged by the city, with the provision that they are never to be built on. In 1859 they became our Public Garden, and in 1860 this was remodelled by laying it out and planting it on a definite and proper plan. This garden embraces about twenty-four acres of land, containing a choice collection of ornamental trees, shrubs, and plants; and in the summer season, with its ninety thousand bedded plants, is an object of splendor and interest, being the most delightful resort for thousands of citizens and strangers, and especially for children, who in pleasant weather are drawn in their carriages or stroll through its walks. From its inception the Garden, with its statues, fountains and floral attractions, has been every year more highly appreciated, and we trust it will soon attain to that perfection which a Boston garden should exhibit. The number of trees in this garden is 1500, and the whole number of trees under city care is 23,000.

LETTER OF JOHN CADNESS,
NOW LIVING IN FLUSHING, NEW YORK.

I was engaged by Dr. Boot, of London, through Dr. John Lindley, Secretary of the London Horticultural Society's Gardens at Chiswick. I left England in June, 1839, arriving in the United States in August, and took charge of the Boston Public Garden on the 7th of that month, under a three years' engagement.

I found a large, and at that time a very fine collection of plants, especially Camellias, among which were some of the largest plants in the country, notably *Alba plenas*, one of which was said to have been raised from a cutting by the late Dr. Dixwell, of Boston. Also quite a number of grafted standard trees, with fine heads, of all the old varieties, such as Gilesii, Chandleri, Elegans, Floyi, Hume's blush, Duchesse d' Orleans, Donklaerii, with many French varieties, and all imported plants. Among other greenhouse plants many of the most showy new Holland plants, then in fashion; some varieties of Chinese Azaleas, Ericas, and a variety of tropical plants, as Strelitzias, Sago Palm, Bananas, Hibiscus, Eugenias, (Rose apple) and a large collection of Cape bulbs and Amaryllis, Pelargoniums, many of Beck's and Cock's (of London) new seedling prize flowers, with the finest set of herbaceous Calceolarias ever seen here.

The Conservatory and two other houses were erected on land west of Charles street. The Conservatory was a very large structure and had an imposing appearance but was in a bad position, being exposed to the cold winds of the Back Bay, and in severe winter weather was difficult to manage. There was also a fine collection of tropical and European singing birds in the Conservatory, of which were some rare specimens.

The gardens were at the foot, on the west side of the Common, as now, with entrance foot of Beacon street, and were only partly laid out. From the nature of the land, it being from four to six feet below the street level, it was filled in with all sorts of city refuse, and a great part of it subject to the inroads of the tide. However, a fine broad walk was laid from the entrance to the end of the Common, with a border planted with ornamental trees, shrubbery, standard roses, herbaceous and other plants which had a fine appearance. A few large beds were cut out wherever the soil would admit of it, and planted with the Dahlia, of which there was a good collection.

There was also imported from Groom, of Walworth, England, a complete bed of prize Tulips, the first ever imported into the United States, valued at \$1000, but costing Mr. Gray \$1500, and which for a time was a great attraction. Mr. Gray supported the place during the time I had charge of it, and I always understood that he was the leading spirit in its establishment. He devoted much of his time and means to aid in its success, and in connection with the late Mr. Teschemacher, did more to that end than any other person. The two great difficulties in the case were, I think, from the nature of the ground it was impossible to plant the proper kinds of

ornamental trees that, in their growth, would have improved and changed in a short time the character of the place; also the want of the Conservatory and other glass, which would have been very effective on the place.

The Public Garden was under the supervision of Prof. James E. Teschemacher, afterwards Corresponding Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and one of the most eminent botanists and chemists of our day.

In this connection, although not strictly horticultural, our history would be incomplete did we not remember the Great Elm of Boston Common, supposed by some, probably a mere fancy, to have been planted by Mr. Blackstone; the noble Paddock Elms in front of the Granary burying ground, whose running roots searching for food pierced the dark charnel vaults within, like that other tree whose roots held within its loving embrace the honored heads of puritan and patriot dust. The Paddock Elms were planted about the year 1762, but have yielded to the daring spirit which is fast making a new city out of old Boston. The monster Elms of Essex street are gone, and also the old "Liberty Tree" once at its corner on Washington street, consecrated by our fathers to the rights of man, as a fit representative of that national tree which now overshadows our vast country, and under whose wide-spreading branches more than fifty millions of happy freemen now recline in peace and safety.

The Great Elm was also at a time one of the secret places of resort for the Sons of Liberty, and then bore the name of the "Liberty Tree," but this must not be confounded with the "Liberty Tree" of which we have spoken and which was cut down by the British soldiers during the siege of Boston. Of the age of the Great Elm we cannot speak positively. It has been known as far

back as tradition can go, and it is reasonable to suppose that it was growing there before the arrival of the Colonists, where the night-bird held her wakeful vigils in the branches above, the sonorous frogs their nightly incantations in the pools below, and where the wild flower was

“born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.”

Until 1830 this old tree stood without special care, where, under its umbrageous shade, millions of souls have rested on their promenade, and hundreds of the lowing herd have chewed in quiet the fragrant cud. And could this old tenant of the forest have told his story of the past, how many councils of the red man, plans of patriotism, tales of love, plots of mischief, and acts of sin would be revealed? But, like all things terrestrial, which must have an end, this venerable giant of the forest came to its destruction. In the gale of February 15th, 1876, its monstrous trunk and towering branches fell to rise no more. Thousands of relic hunters flocked to get souvenirs of the tree and carried them home in triumph, sawing, cutting, and carrying them away as relics snatched from some holy shrine. Universal sorrow was manifested by the public at the loss of this venerable tree. Resolutions of regret were passed by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the writer was requested to solicit from the Mayor a section for preservation in its cabinet, a request which was granted, both to this Society, to the New England Historic Genealogical Society and to himself, from which were made noble chairs, commemorative of the Centennial of our Republic in 1876.

Among the most potent agents in the promotion of horticulture at the beginning of the present century

was the establishment of the Botanic Garden at Cambridge; furnishing, as it has done to the present day, a most extensive and interesting collection of native and foreign plants collected from all parts of the world; where the student may be instructed, the eye charmed, the senses gratified with an infinite variety of curious and beautiful trees and various types of the floral kingdom; and where the science of plant life and its manifold relations to the arts and industries are illustrated, in their connection with the happiness of the human race. This garden was established at the beginning of the present century, and has ever exercised a happy influence on horticulture and the knowledge of plants. It had for its early patron the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, which in 1801 laid its foundation by a liberal subscription to establish a Professorship of Natural History at Cambridge, culminating in the planting of the Botanic Garden,¹ at Harvard University, which has exerted a direct influence on the taste that ultimately led to the formation of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.²

Under the direction of Professors Thomas Nuttall, Thaddeus William Harris, Asa Gray, and Charles S. Sargent, it has had a world wide reputation, and now under the direction of Professor Goodale, is in a very satisfactory condition. It has been much improved by the efforts of Dr. Gray and Professor Sargent, but still needs funds to promote its usefulness. Through the exertions of Prof. Goodale the sum of more than fifty thousand dollars has been already subscribed towards a permanent fund, which we have no doubt will be established, and thus this most useful institution will be placed in a

¹ Transactions for the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, New Series, Vol. 1st, page 28th.

² History of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, page 40.

condition to maintain the reputation which it so richly deserves.

The Bussey Institution¹ and the Arnold Arboretum at Jamaica Plain, also departments of Harvard University, give promise of great usefulness, not only in promoting Agriculture and Arboriculture, but will be prominent agents in advancing the cause of Horticulture, and a knowledge of the endless variety of trees and plants, where, under the direction of Prof. Sargent, curator, are now growing 2500 species of trees and shrubs. The funds for the establishment of the Bussey Institution were derived from the bequest of Benjamin Bussey, and those for the Arboretum from James Arnold, of New Bedford, who constituted the late Dr. Geo. B. Emerson and others, trustees, with authority to appropriate the same for such a purpose. These institutions are in a prosperous condition, each carrying out the objects for which they were designed. This place, now called Woodland Hill, on which Thomas Motley, President of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, now resides, by virtue of Mr. Bussey's will in bequest to Mrs. Motley, was purchased by Mr. Bussey in 1815, where he afterwards had orchards of various fruits, pears, plums and peaches, especially of the apple and cherries, largely Mazzard, as Mr. Bussey used to say, for the

¹ The property of Woodland Hill was given to Harvard College, on the following conditions, viz. :—" That they will establish there a course of instruction in practical Agriculture, in useful and ornamental gardening, in botany, and in such other branches of natural sciences as may tend to promote a knowledge of practical agriculture, and the various arts subservient thereto and connected therewith, and cause such course of lectures to be delivered there, at such seasons of the year and under such regulations as they may think best adapted to promote the ends designed; and also to furnish gratuitous aid, if they shall think it expedient, to such meritorious persons as may resort there for instruction; the institution so established shall be called the "Bussey Institution."—*Thomas Motley's Letter.*

birds; "for we found they were quite fond of cherries, and took their full share."¹

In regard to the environs of our city, we would state that from a very early period these have been celebrated for their elegant estates, fine gardens, and for the rural adornments bestowed on them by our wealthy merchants and citizens, who, as the city increased, required more room for commercial purposes, and transplanted many of their trees and plants to their country homes. Dorchester, Roxbury, Brookline, and Cambridge, were famous in early history for their interest in agricultural and horticultural improvement. For the first twenty years of the existence of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Roxbury and Dorchester furnished all the presidents and treasurers of that institution.

In Dorchester were the gardens and orchards of some of the first settlers, and some of the old pear trees planted by them have survived to the present time. Of those in the present century which have been more or less noted we may mention the estates of the Reverend Dr. Thaddeus Mason Harris,² William Clapp, Ebenezer T. Andrews the partner of Isaiah Thomas, of Samuel Downer, Cheever Newhall, Zebedee Cook, Elijah Vose, William Oliver, John Richardson, William R. Austin. From other gardens have gone forth many of the choice fruits which are now in cultivation, such as the Downer cherry, the Andrews, Frederick Clapp, the Harris, the Clapp's Favorite, and other seedling pears, and we hope the last named may endure even longer than the marble on which its form is engraved in

¹ Letter of Thomas Motley.

² Dr. Harris was a lover of fine fruit, and once said to the writer, "Your exhibition of pears is grand; but there is one variety that I miss,—the Bon Chretien (the good Christian). I shall bring some from my garden tomorrow.

Forest Hills Cemetery;¹ and to these we might add the Dorchester blackberry, the President Wilder strawberry, and just over the borders of Dorchester in Milton the Diana grape, raised by Mrs. Diana Crehore, who still lives at the advanced age of eighty-four years. This was brought to notice in 1843, being the first seedling American grape at the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society deemed worthy of notice.

Zebedee Cook, the second president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, some fifty years since had a large garden opposite the Andrews estate, on the east side of the then turnpike road, where he successfully grew several kinds of foreign grapes, apricots, peaches, and pears. Among the grapes was a white variety, named Horatio, after Mr. Horatio Sprague, Consul at Gibraltar, from whom he received it, — known now as the Nice grape.

Mr. Newhall was a distinguished cultivator, and the first treasurer of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. His orchards were extensive, embracing a large number of varieties, especially of the pear, which he cultivated with success until about three years since, when he died at the age of ninety. This place was once the residence of Thomas Motley, father of the historian, John Lathrop Motley, and his brother, Thomas Motley, the president of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, who were here born.

Samuel Downer,² one of the founders of the Horticul-

¹ The Massachusetts Agricultural Club, desiring to name this pear for the writer, and to disseminate it for general cultivation, offered Mr. Clapp one thousand dollars for the control of it; but he declined, preferring to give to it the name it now bears.

² He was son of the celebrated Dr. Downer, "the fighting surgeon," who had a personal encounter with a British soldier on his return from the battle at Concord. Their fire having missed, Downer knocked him down and then ran him through with his own bayonet, and said, "it was not ten minutes before I got another good shot." Dr. Downer was in prison in Halifax, from

tural Society, had a large orchard which still remains in good order under the intelligent care of his son, Samuel Downer, Jr. He was an early, enterprising, and useful member, and took a deep interest in pomology until his death, at eighty years of age. He was especially interested in the origin and character of native fruits, and, as he used to say, he loved to be "mousing" after new varieties, especially such as were of native origin.

Elijah Vose, the third president of the Horticultural Society, had a fine plantation of fruits, and especially grew to great perfection the Duchesse d'Angouleme pear, which sometimes commanded seventy-five cents to a dollar each for extraordinary specimens.

William Oliver, vice-president of the Horticultural Society, had a good orchard of pears and other fruits which, after his death, became the residence of ex-Governor Henry J. Gardner.

Another very old garden in Dorchester, of which our valued citizen, Mr. John Richardson, has been the occupant and owner for a long course of years, deserves a record in our Memorial volume. The house was the birthplace of Edward Everett, and is understood to have been built in colonial times by Gov. Oliver, who is supposed to have laid out the garden, which is now interesting from its old trees and antique appearance, but more especially for the number of choice fruits and flowers, many of which have been produced from seed by the hands of its skilful proprietor.

The pear orchard of the late William R. Austin,

which he escaped; was also in the Dartmoor and the Forten prisons for a while, and was in several desperate engagements under John Paul Jones, both as soldier and surgeon. He was engaged in the expedition up the Kennebec to Canada. Massachusetts awarded him fifteen dollars for his loss of surgical instruments.—*Letter of Samuel Downer, Jr., May 5, 1881* (since deceased).

treasurer of the Horticultural Society, was, and is still, famous for the size and beauty of its fruit, produced by pruning his trees into the shape of a wine-glass.

And here, in the Dorchester district, if I may be permitted to allude to it, are the experimental grounds of the writer, formerly the estate of Gov. Increase Sumner, which, at the time of his death, 1799, passed into the hands of his son, Gen. William H. Sumner, one of the founders of the Horticultural Society, and finally to its present owner. On these experimental grounds have been produced, under the personal inspection of its present proprietor, within the last fifty years, more than twelve hundred varieties of fruits, and from thence there was exhibited, on one occasion, four hundred and four distinct varieties of the pear. Here was originated, by the art of hybridization, the Camellias Wilderi and Mrs. Abby Wilder, which received, more than thirty years ago, a special prize of fifty dollars; also the Mrs. Julia Wilder, the Jennie Wilder, and other Camellias of great perfection, and from this place went to the Boston Public Garden, on its foundation, in the year 1839, the entire collection of greenhouse and garden plants to which we have alluded before.

Roxbury was noted for its interest in fruit culture at an early period, as has been seen by the statement of Chief Justice Paul Dudley, already quoted. This town was remarkable for its production of apples and the quantity of cider manufactured. The farm of the late Ebenezer Seaver, member of Congress from 1803 to 1813, was distinguished for the culture of fruit. This estate has passed regularly down in the family line through Joshua, Jonathan, the Ebenezer Seavers, and the Parkers, lineal descendants, who now reside on it. In the account books of Jonathan Seaver, from 1731 and

on, we find that he was largely interested in the manufacture of "Sider." From 1740 to 1749, we find the Reverend Thomas Prince, minister of the Old South Church, annually charged with from three to five barrels of "Sider" for several years, and that in April 24th, 1749, Mr. Seaver credited him with "Thirty Pounds in Cash, old tenor in part, for Sundries."

From the preceding extracts we may infer that an abundance of apples was raised at that time. The old and new cider mills are remembered by Mrs. Parker, a daughter of "Squire Seaver," who, at an advanced age, still lives in the old house. Large heaps of fragrant apples lay outside of the mill in the autumn, and during the second Ebenezer Seaver's day, a little more than a hundred years ago, the bears were attracted to them from the "Rocky Wilderness Land" that lay to the southwest, towards what is now Forest Hills. Upon one occasion his bearship lingered tasting till he was discovered. Mr. Seaver and his neighbors gave chase, and finally captured him on the marsh land in Dorchester in the vicinity of what is now Crescent Avenue. The neighbors were invited to a feast in honor of the occasion, at Mr. Seaver's house, the bear furnishing the chief dish as well as a steak for each guest to take home.

Mrs. Parker remembers several large ancient pear trees that stood on the home lot and were old and vigorous when she was young. An Orange and a Minot pear tree of great size in the trunk, and an excellent pear for cooking, and a Gennetin pear tree still remain on the lawn, whose age none can remember, which bears two or three bushels yearly of its small, early fruit. During the period of Ebenezer Seaver's service in Congress, which ended in 1813, Col. Matlock, a gentleman he met there, gave him some scions from the original

Seckel pear tree, near Philadelphia. He sent them carefully home in a letter, and his son Jonathan grafted them before his return, they being the first of the kind, as far as he knew, in this vicinity. The tree is still flourishing, and on Saturday, September 27th, 1879, there were picked from it over two barrels of pears. One individual pear, by actual measurement, was eight and five-eighths inches each way round. The family had never seen one to equal it in size. There was also where Schuyler street now is, an immemorial Iron pear tree, so tall that the crown of the tree was usually not picked. In the latter part of the eighteenth century and the first of the present, the fruit of the mulberry was much esteemed, there being few of the many small fruits now cultivated. The widow of the second Ebenezer realized in one season seventy dollars from the fruit sold from one large tree which stood in front of the house, beside using much herself for the entertainment of friends. It lived till after the marriage, in 1820, of the granddaughter, who remembers it well. This farm was also celebrated for its cherries, the trees having been blown down in the gale of 1815. The late George J. Parker had large fields of currants and gooseberries. There have been gathered in one year fifty barrels of gooseberries from bushes that he planted.¹

Prior to the present century Judge John Lowell was a leading patron in the promotion of improved agriculture, and was president of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, for many years. He had an orchard, garden, and one of the first greenhouses, and contributed to the fund for establishing the Botanic Garden at Cambridge.² This property was inherited by his son, Hon.

¹ Letter of Miss Parker, granddaughter of Hon. Eben Seaver.

² Augustus Lowell's letter.

John Lowell, who was also president for some years of the above-named society, and who stood at the head of the horticulturists and agriculturists in New England, and was styled by General Dearborn as the Columella of the Northern States. He presided at the preliminary meeting which eventuated in the establishment of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Mr. Lowell received scions of fruit trees from Mr. Knight, President of the Horticultural Society of London, and other eminent pomologists of Europe, and so liberally distributed them to his friends that his trees were often crippled in their growth. Mr. Lowell was also interested in the growth of exotics, and had in his collection some of the first orchideous plants of which we have any record. Among his plants sixty years ago he had a famous *Strelitzia regina*, which was then an object of great curiosity. No man in the early part of this century did more for the promotion of pomology in New England than Mr. Lowell.

This estate was next inherited by the Hon. John A. Lowell, our esteemed and venerable citizen, who added largely to its glass structures, one of which was an Orchid house, to contain the plants bequeathed to him by John Wright Boott, some of which are now at the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, to which Mr. Lowell also gave a large part of his own Botanical library.

In Roxbury was the garden of Gen. Henry A. S. Dearborn, who will ever be gratefully remembered as the first president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He was also a great leader in the establishment of the Mount Auburn Cemetery, and the founder of Forest Hills Cemetery. In his garden were raised the Dearborn Seedling pear and other fruits. He gave several hundred ornamental trees to be planted at Mount Auburn, and was personally occupied in the

laying out and adornment of both this and the Forest Hills Cemetery, and to him are the public more indebted primarily for the prestige and popularity of these institutions than to any other man. His labors, addresses, and communications for the press in regard to the science and practice of horticulture and rural embellishments, have given to his name an earthly immortality.

Here also was the garden of the late Enoch Bartlett, one of the founders and first vice-presidents of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, where may now be seen the first Bartlett pear trees imported, a variety which is more popular than any other in our country. These grounds were previously owned by Captain Brewer, on which he had planted many fruit trees. When Mr. Bartlett purchased this place in 1820 he found two young trees which, on fruiting, proved to be the above, both of which still bear fruit, the largest being over forty inches in circumference three feet above the ground. This pear was afterwards ascertained to be the Williams Bon Chretien, an English variety.¹

At Jamaica Plain were the garden and orchard of Captain John Prince, who was a successful cultivator of fruits and flowers. In 1825 he had eleven varieties of pears, four of plums, two of apricots, besides grapes and many varieties of apples. His greenhouse contained some of the early Camellias introduced into New England, among which was a Double White, purchased of Joseph Barrell, of Charlestown, when it was only a foot high, but a few hours previous to Mr. Barrell's death.

One of the most noted places for the production of fruits and vegetables in the Roxbury district for the last century is the old Williams homestead, on Wal-

¹ Letter of Allen Putnam.

nut avenue. This was the home of Aaron Davis Williams, who succeeded his father, and who, during a long and useful life, contributed largely to the advancement of the horticulture of our vicinity. His father, John Davis Williams, was celebrated as a cultivator at the close of the last century, as was probably his grandfather before him. From the orchards of this place for more than a hundred years have come to the Boston market many of the choicest fruits and vegetables that it could boast of. This spot is also memorable as the birthplace of the brothers John Davis Williams, and Moses Williams, so renowned as merchants of Boston, the latter now surviving at ninety years in a healthful old age, from whom the writer has received the following letter :

Boston, May 10, 1881.

HON. MARSHALL P. WILDER: Dear Sir,—Your favor of yesterday was received this morning. The house on Walnut avenue, in the Roxbury District, where my brother, Aaron D. Williams was born, and where he died, was originally a Leanto, two stories on the front and one story on the rear. It was inherited by my father, John D. Williams, who was baptised John, married Hannah Davis, and after his marriage, petitioned the legislature, and took the name of John Davis Williams. My brother, the oldest child of my father, was baptised John, and after he became a man, he petitioned the legislature for leave to take the name of John Davis Williams, instead of John Williams, but as my father was a farmer and received but few letters, my brother never signed his name junior, as it appears to me now that it would have been proper for him to have done. However, my father received so few letters that no trouble ever arose on this account. My father, and I am almost certain, my grandfather, were born, at any rate, they lived, on the same estate where my brother Aaron D. was born and where he died. There was no better cultivators of fruits and vegetables than my father, in his day, and my brother, Aaron, in his. My father left an estate in 1807, of \$85,000, all acquired by uncommon ability, as a cultivator of fruit and vegetables. My brother Aaron made all to thrive under his care, but became too rich the latter part of his life to give to cultivation his exclusive attention.

Very truly, your friend,

MOSES WILLIAMS.

Another fine old place in Roxbury to be remembered was that of Rufus G. Amory, with its long avenues, entering from Washington street, bordered with noble

elms, which still live. He was much interested in ornamental culture, importing trees and shrubs from Europe, and, it is said, received our common Barberry bush at a high price, while he was paying men at the rate of five shillings a day to dig them out of his own grounds. This estate, "Elm Hill," for a long time was the residence of the late John D. W. Williams, but is now (1881) being laid out into streets and cut up into house lots.

The Roxbury Russet apple was a great favorite a hundred years ago, and many orchards produced from five hundred to one thousand or more barrels a year. It is believed to have originated on the old farm of Ebenezer Davis, where some trees of the original orchard still remain.

The farm of Samuel Ward, now belonging to the Brookline Land Company, was famous fifty years ago for its Roxbury Russet apples, often producing a thousand barrels a year; and also for cherries, sending to market forty to fifty bushels daily in the season, and occasionally a four-ox team to Providence with seventy-five bushels of cherries.

Among the orchards of early times were those of the Curtises, at Jamaica Plain. These have passed down to the present occupants in direct lineal descent, and from them immense crops of apples have been sent to the Boston market, in which the Curtises are the largest dealers and exporters of this fruit, shipping them by thousands upon thousands of barrels to foreign ports.¹

Nor should we omit the ancestral home of our worthy citizen, Aaron Davis Weld, in West Roxbury, so celebrated for its orchards in olden time, and for the last forty years for its famous apples and the renowned Weld farm cider and vinegar, where now are grown

¹ Charles F. Curtis's letter.

great crops of fruits in addition to two hundred tons of hay a year.

In Roxbury, too, is the splendid estate of William Gray, Jr., on the borders of Dorchester, ex-president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. This was formerly a portion of the celebrated estate of Col. Swan, long imprisoned in France for debt not of his own contracting, and one of those who helped throw the tea into the harbor.¹ Here Mr. Gray has offered the public fine illustrations of landscape gardening by the laying out of his beautiful grounds. From his conservatories and grounds our exhibitions have been constantly enriched with rare and costly plants, and his enterprise keep up with the progress of the age, having for the last three years won the \$150 Silver Cup for his roses.

Roxbury, from the early part of this century, was distinguished for its greenhouses. We have alluded to the Lowells and others reaching back to that time. Among those of the present century was that of John Lemist, who was lost on the ill-fated steamboat Lexington on the route from Boston to Providence in 1840. This place was formerly the residence of Judge Auchmuty. He being a tory his property was confiscated. Gov. Increase Sumner was afterwards the owner, then Beza Tucker, and in 1824 it passed to Mr. Lemist.* His greenhouses and grapery, under the care of a Scotch gardener, John R. Russell, became quite noted. His collection of plants, especially camellias, gardenias and roses, was considered as remarkable, and he often obtained one dollar or more for a cut flower of the Double White Camellia.

The gardens and nurseries of Samuel Walker, fifth president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society,

¹ Hon. Thomas C. Amory's letter.

* See Boston Memorial, Vol. II, p. 343.

were situated in Roxbury, opposite the estate of Gov. Eustis. Mr. Walker was prominent in his efforts to advance horticulture, and made his home in a garden. He was a zealous and experienced cultivator of plants and fruit trees. He bestowed great attention on the cultivation of the dahlia, tulip and pansy. He annually gave public exhibitions of the tulip under a canvas tent erected for the purpose, and had costly varieties, such as Louis XVI. and others, valued at £10 to £15 for a single bulb. His nurseries were, for many years, noted for their excellence, and his fruits on exhibition were of the first class, among which was the Mount Vernon pear, which he had produced from seed.

On the borders of Jamaica Pond is the garden of Francis Parkman, LL. D., ex-president of the Horticultural Society, who has become almost as widely known for his experience in hybridizing plants as for his historical writings. By the process of hybridizing he obtained the *Lilium Parkmanii*, for the stock of which a florist in London gave him one thousand dollars.

Roxbury has been renowned for the many varieties of fruits which have been originated within her borders. Of these may be named the famous Roxbury Russet, Williams' Favorite, and Seaver Sweet apples; the Dearborn's Seedling, Lewis, Merriam, Dana's Hovey, and Mount Vernon pears.

In Milton are numerous fine estates which, under modern horticultural skill, are worthy of remembrance, such as the summer residences of Henry P. Kidder, Francis Peabody, Robert B. and John M. Forbes, Mrs. F. Cunningham, Miss Russell, and John W. Brooks, whose pear orchard contains six hundred trees of the Beurré d'Anjou, generally considered "the best." Nor would we omit the residence of Col. Henry S. Russell, in olden time of Francis Amory, now the

“Home Farm,” with its world-renowned “Smuggler” breed of horses, its extensive avenues of old oaks, walnuts, elms, maples and pines, its broad landscape and ornamental grounds.

The town of Brookline has been celebrated, from an early date for the elegant residences of our wealthy merchants and opulent citizens, and for its gardens, orchards, and ornamental grounds. “Brookline was, for a long time, preëminent in the little cordon of towns which have so long constituted the exquisite environs of Boston, embossing it with rich and varied margins of lawn and lake and meadow and wooded hillside, and encircling its old “plain neck,” as Wood called it in his “New England’s Prospect,” with an unfading wreath of bloom and verdure.¹ Here were the homes of the Amorys, the Aspinwalls, the Perkinses, Sullivans, Sargents, Lees, Gardners, Tappans, of Gen. Theodore Lyman, Benjamin Guild, Nathaniel Ingersoll Bowditch, John E. Thayer, and others, who have been patrons of horticultural improvement; and although the citizens of Brookline protested in 1773 against the introduction of the leaves of the Tea plant without their consent, they have been proverbially friends of rural taste and the adornment of their residences with other beautiful trees and plants.

In the very early part of this century the gardens and greenhouses of Col. Thomas Handasyd Perkins were particularly distinguished. Col. Perkins was one of the most eminent merchants of our city, and his public benefactions, especially in founding the Institution for the Blind, will ever be gratefully remembered. He and his brother, Samuel G. Perkins, inherited a love for fruits and flowers from their grandmother, Mrs. Ed-

¹ Mr. Winthrop’s *Address at the dedication of the new Town Hall of Brookline.*

mund Perkins, who was Edna Frothingham, of Charlestown. Col. Perkins' residence in France and other foreign lands, where he had seen fine fruits and flowers, stimulated his natural taste, and induced him to purchase this estate in 1800, when he commenced the building of his house, the laying out of his grounds, and the erection of greenhouses and glass structures for the cultivation of fruits and flowers, and until the establishment of the magnificent conservatories and fruit houses of his nephew, John Perkins Cushing, at Watertown (now the residence of Samuel R. Payson, which still exists in the highest state of improvement), his place was considered the most advanced in horticultural science of any in New England. For fifty years Col. Perkins' estate was kept in the best manner by experienced foreign gardeners, and at an expense of more than ten thousand dollars annually. He frequently received trees and plants from Europe, the products of which were prominent at the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. In 1840 he introduced the Victoria Hamburg, West's St. Peter's, and Cannon Hall Muscat grape vines, which were presented to him by Sir Joseph Paxton, gardener to the Duke of Devonshire. Col. P. gave a description of the conservatory of the Duke: 275 feet long by 130 wide, and 65 feet high, costing two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or fifty thousand pounds sterling.

Next to be named were the garden and fruit houses of Samuel G. Perkins, which were presented to him by his brother, Col. Perkins. They were selected on account of being situated between the Colonel's and James Perkins' beautiful estate at Pine Bank, an elder brother, and where now resides his grandson, E. N. Perkins, as a favorable location for Samuel to indulge his natural taste, and the skill which he had acquired

in horticultural science by residing in foreign lands, and by his acquaintance with experienced cultivators of both fruits and flowers. His fruit houses were two hundred feet in length, in and around which were grown the choicest varieties of grapes, peaches and plums; there the Golden Nectarine was produced from the stone planted by him. Mr. Perkins was the introducer of the Duchesse d'Angouleme pear, the Franconia raspberry, and other fruits from France. He attended personally to the pruning and cultivation of his trees, and his success was greater than that of his brother. Mr. Samuel G. Perkins usually wore a button-hole bouquet in the lappel of his coat, and was fond of surprising his brother with superior fruits. One day he came with a basket of gorgeous grapes, peaches and apricots, and said: "Brother Tom, I know you love fine fruit, and fearing you do not often get it, I have brought you something worth having." "Thank you, Brother Sam, I try to be contented with what I have, and I certainly should be if you were not always bursting in and giving me something that makes me envy you."¹

In Brookline is the old Aspinwall estate. This was the birthplace of our beloved citizen, the late Col. Thomas Aspinwall, where still remains the same old mansion* house in which he and his father, Dr. William Aspinwall, were born. The "Aspinwall House" was built by Peter Aspinwall in 1660, is now owned (1880) by Hon. William Aspinwall, and has never been out of the possession of descendants of the same name. Here were planted by Dr. William Aspinwall extensive orchards of Baldwin and Roxbury Russet apples, and other fruits. Some few trees are still remaining near

¹ Letter of Augustus T. Perkins.

* See Boston Memorial, Vol. I., p. 221.

the old house. So plenty were peaches that the pigs were turned into the orchard to eat up the surplus, and this ground is still called the "old peach orchard." On a portion of the Aspinwall estate, Mr. Augustus Aspinwall, a distinguished merchant and horticulturist, one of the first board of counsellors of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, devoted a part of his time to horticultural pursuits, erecting two extensive graperies. He was eminently successful as a cultivator of the rose of which he made frequent exhibitions. The old Aspinwall Elm, formerly so renowned, which stood at the corner of the old house, was destroyed by the gale of September, 1863. Dr. George B. Emerson, in his report on the trees and shrubs of Massachusetts in the edition of 1846, says: "The Aspinwall Elm in Brookline, standing near the ancient house belonging to that family, and which was known to be 181 years old in 1837, then measured 26 feet 5 inches at the ground, or as near to it as the roots would allow us to measure, and 16 feet 8 inches at five feet. The branches extended 104 feet from southeast to northwest, and 95 from northeast to southwest," Some persons believe that this old elm was cœval in age with the purchase by Peter Aspinwall in 1650. The Aspinwall estate is now the property of the Aspinwall Land Co.¹

The most extensive and elegant estate in Brookline is that of the venerable Ignatius Sargent, whose success in grape culture forty years ago was so great that he exhibited bunches of the Black Hamburg grape weighing from four to six pounds. On these grounds is the beautiful cottage of his son, Professor Charles S. Sargent, on the site of the residence of the late Thomas Lee, the donor to the city of the Lethean statue on the

¹ Letter of Hon. Wm. Aspinwall.

Boston Public Garden, and of the statue of Hamilton on Commonwealth Avenue, and who was thirty years ago much interested in the growth of rhododendrons, azaleas and other plants. Under the supervision of Professor Sargent, this place, with its magnificent landscape, its conservatories of plants, and its extensive collection of conifers, rhododendrons and azaleas, is every year thrown open to the public. With its extensive and rare collection of native and foreign trees and shrubs, and its wide and grand embrace of one hundred acres in extent, this estate is one of great interest for the study of landscape and ornamental culture.

General Lyman, to whom we have alluded, expended large sums of money in the erection of his house in 1842, of which Richard Upjohn was the architect. He improved the premises by grading the lawn, planting trees, and building graperies, all of which have been further improved by his worthy son, Col. Theodore, who still resides there, and whose son of the same name, a promising lad, we hope will live to perpetuate the memory of Theodore Lyman. Here remain some of the grand old trees planted by the father of our venerable citizen, Jonathan Mason, who still lives at the advanced age of nearly ninety years. General Lyman was a patron of horticulture, agriculture, and moral reform.* He gave over seventy thousand dollars to found the State Reform School at Westborough; ten thousand dollars to the Farm School, in Boston Harbor, and ten thousand dollars to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

In Brookline, also, is the elegant villa, with its splendid avenues and grounds, of the late John Eliot Thayer, left by him to Mrs. Thayer, now Mrs. Robert C. Win-

* See Mr. Bugbee's chapter in Boston Memorial, Vol. III.

throp, where a most generous hospitality, and cordial welcome are extended to the numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop, both of our own and foreign lands.

Here, also, are the fine estate and extensive glass structures of John Lowell Gardner, to whom we have alluded already, by whose liberality for a long course of years the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society have been graced and enriched by elegant plants and products from the hands of his experienced gardener, Mr. Atkinson. Mr. Gardner's mother was sister to the Hon. John Lowell, and he inherits the same taste for rural life and culture for which Mr. Lowell was so renowned. His father, as we have seen, also possessed like tastes, when they resided in Summer street, where foreign grapes and pears were grown in open air. The Saint Germain pear was very large; and of the Brown Beurré, Mr. Gardner says: "I have never seen finer specimens."

No doubt good gardens were early made at Muddy Brook when it was a part of Boston. The elegant estate of the Hon. Amos A. Lawrence at Longwood, was once the farm of Judge Sewall, on which there are relics of pear culture. One of the trees, a very large one, was destroyed by a gale several years ago. The largest which remains, though with lessened proportions, now measures, at six inches above the ground, nine feet two inches in circumference. Thirty years ago it bore what is called the Button pear, but has since been regrafted with another variety. Judge Sewall, in his diary between 1680 and 1700, mentions grafting trees at his house in Boston with "Button pears." The grafts were probably taken from this tree.¹ Hon. William Amory has a lovely place at Longwood.

¹ Hon. Amos A. Lawrence's letter.

Cambridge was celebrated for her gardens and the ornamental culture of her grounds, even before the commencement of this present century. "At the close of the Revolution Andrew Cragie purchased the Washington headquarters, now the residence of the poet Longfellow, enlarged the house, and laid out the grounds in the taste of that period. The stream surrounding a small island, with a few pine trees upon it, may still be seen. On the western side of the mansion the tall hedges and clumps of lilacs are all that remain of this early garden.

Mr. Cragie had a greenhouse on the grounds where the dormitory of the Episcopal Seminary now stands. This structure was burnt about 1840. He also had an ice house, an almost unknown luxury in those days. Some people thought a judgment would befall one who would thus attempt to thwart the designs of Providence by raising flowers under glass in winter, and keeping ice under ground to cool the heat of summer, which now seems to have been the forerunners of two great institutions in Cambridge,—ice in summer, and flowers in winter.

Thomas Brattle, born in Cambridge in 1742, became a royalist refugee in 1775, and was banished by the act of 1778. But in 1784 he returned to Cambridge, his property being restored to him, took possession of his patrimony, the house which now bears his name, next to the University Press, began to improve his grounds according to the taste of a century ago, and from that time until his death, in 1801, his garden, possessing a profusion of fruits and flowers, was the boast of Cambridge. His house was built by his father in 1742, when was planted, probably, the square of English lindens which so long formed a green canopy around it, but which have all fallen by the tooth of

time, the last one disappearing about fifteen years ago. Mr. Brattle, with a native taste for horticulture, and his observation acquired in foreign lands, no doubt laid out his grounds in the latest styles of Europe, having a spring of pure water, a marble grotto, a pond for gold fish, and a parterre for aquatic plants on a lower level, where the University Press stands. His lawn was so velvet-like that it was said it could only be improved by combing it with a fine-tooth comb.

The most remarkable fruit garden in Cambridge during the last century was that of Bosenger Foster, who lived on the estate occupied by the late venerable and worthy Samuel Batchelder, who died a few years ago at the age of ninety-two. [This estate is now occupied by Mr. Thomas P. James, who married the daughter of Mr. Batchelder.] The garden is still partially enclosed by a brick wall, which has been a landmark on Brattle street for the last one hundred and fifty years. Here was probably the first extensive collection of pear trees in a region now famous for its fine fruits. Mr. Foster imported the most celebrated French pears, some trees of which attained great size; a few of them, with a most beautiful black mulberry tree, ornament the place, and still bear fruit. Here are still large Hawthorn trees, which it is believed were planted by the Vassalls in 1730, and which still produce a profusion of white blossoms, and are a harbor for winter birds who feed on the ripe haws.

Here, near by, is the historic Washington elm, much shorn of its glory, believed to be one of a row of trees planted about two hundred years ago. Under it Washington took command of the American army, and at that time it must have attained its first century. Here, too, is the old Whitefield elm, of about the same size, which was cut down some ten

or twenty years ago, and under which Whitefield preached in 1740, when he was not allowed to enter any pulpit in Cambridge. Only one of this row survives.¹

Cambridge has been renowned for the culture of fruits, especially of the pear and plum, as the exhibitions of the last fifty years have shown. Here were the experimental grounds and nurseries of Samuel Pond, Henry Vandine, and numerous gardens of fruit trees.

Cambridge has possessed the most extensive nurseries and plant-houses of any place in New England. Here Mr. P. B. Hovey, with his brother, Charles M. Hovey, established more than forty years ago, upon a piece of wild woodland, the famous nursery of Hovey & Co., for the sale of trees and plants, and here under the supervision and direction of the latter gentleman, associated with their sons in the profession, he has supervised and carried on the raising and testing of fruits, the raising of seeds, and the hybridization and acquisition of plants which have given him and his brother a renowned reputation as horticulturists both at home and in foreign lands. Mr. Hovey's love of nature and his ambitious and enterprising disposition have inspired him to prove under his own personal inspection every thing in the way of horticulture that seemed desirable. In the department of Pomology there have been fruited and proved on these grounds more than fifteen hundred varieties of fruits, and from them there have been exhibited on a single occasion three hundred varieties of pears. Here were raised by the crossing of the strawberry the Boston Pine and Hovey's Seedling strawberry, the last named being still, after almost fifty years of trial, one of our finest varieties in cultivation.

¹ Letter of Mrs. Isabella James.

The collection of plants contains grand old specimens, which are the result of many years of patience and toil. Some of the Chinese and other palms are fifty years old and twelve feet high. Here was early commenced the hybridization of plants, by which have been produced some of the most remarkable Camellias our country can boast of:—such as Mrs. Anne Marie Hovey, Charles M. Hovey, Charles H. Hovey, and others, for some of which they received the gold medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and also a first class certificate by the London Horticultural Society. Many of these Mr. C. M. Hovey exhibited in London, in person. The Camellia house of Hovey & Co. is one hundred feet long, forty feet wide and twenty-five feet high, and it contains some of the largest Camellias in the country, all planted in the ground. Here are twenty other houses for the growth of plants.

The collection of Hovey & Co. contains hundreds of species and varieties of ornamental trees and shrubs, among which are remarkable specimens of elegant and curious trees worthy of the long life which it has taken to produce them. Mr. C. M. Hovey, for four years president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, was the editor of the Magazine of Horticulture for thirty-four years,—the whole period of its existence. These volumes contain a vast amount of horticultural and kindred matter, and as books of reference are of very great value to all lovers of the art. Triumphant over all obstacles, and working with a zeal that never tires, he still lives to promote the great cause to which he has devoted his life.

The city of Newton, with her eight villages, and with a numerous population of active business people has made, perhaps, as great advances in horticultural science, as any other area of the same size

around Boston. Here are numerous beautiful residences, with highly cultivated gardens, orchards, and well kept grounds; and just beyond, in Natick, where the Apostle Eliot planted his apple trees, are cultivators of the rose, whose sales amount to thousands of dollars annually.

Newton and Brighton have been noted for their cultivation of fruits, trees and plants for nearly a hundred years. The first nursery of any considerable note in New England was commenced by John Kenrick, of Newton, in 1790, by the raising of peach trees from the stone, to which he added in a few years the apple, cherry, and other fruit trees. In 1797 he commenced a nursery of ornamental trees, two acres of which were planted with the Lombardy poplar, then a most esteemed but now despised tree. His nurseries became the most extensive in New England. In 1823 Mr. Kenrick took his elder son, William, into partnership, and continued the business until his decease in 1833. Peaches and currants were here extensively cultivated, and there were manufactured in 1826 three thousand and six hundred gallons of currant wine. William Kenrick's nursery at Nonantum Hill in Newton, established in 1823, continued for twenty-seven years, and for a part of this time he imported and sold more fruit trees than any other nurseryman in New England. John A. Kenrick, brother of William, also pursued the nursery business on the old estate until his death in 1870.¹ William Kenrick was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a zealous, enterprising citizen, and the author of the "New American Orchardist," and a public writer. He entered largely into the *Morus Multicaulis* speculation, propagating hundreds of thousands of this tree both on his

¹ History of the Mass. Hort. Soc., pp. 33, 34.

own grounds and other land which he had taken up in the South.

James Hyde established a small nursery of fruit trees about the year 1800, when he was eighteen years old, This was enlarged from time to time, and in 1842 our respected friend, James F. C. Hyde, since president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, became a partner with his father, and for many years carried on the business with success. To this day he possesses the same love of rural life and interest in fruits and flowers, especially in testing by personal experience the new varieties that come to his notice, and writing for the press.

In Brighton there was a nursery established in 1816, by Jonathan Winship, also a founder of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. In 1826 he associated with him his brother Francis, and carried on the general nursery business on an extensive scale for many years. They also had greenhouses for the propagation of plants being among the earliest growers of ornamental trees and plants for sale. They furnished the city of Boston largely for planting its Common and streets; also, other cities and many of the cemeteries, having at that time, the largest collection of such in this section of the country, and were among the first to send cut flowers to the Boston markets for sale. To their collection Sir Admiral Isaac Coffin made valuable donations which he collected in Europe.¹

The nursery and plant business was in later years carried on in Brighton by Joseph Breck, and James L. L. F. Warren, and now by William C. Strong and Charles H. B. Breck and Sons. Forty years since Mr. Warren was largely interested in the cultivation of

¹ Letter of Lyman F. Winship. Also, chapter in Boston Memorial on Brighton, Vol. III.

ornamental and greenhouse plants, and had public exhibitions of the tulip and other bulbous plants. Having possessed himself of the stock of the Camellias Wilderi, and Mrs. Abby Wilder, he propagated them largely and went to Europe with them, where he made considerable sales. Mr. Warren is now in California, and has been editor of the "California Farmer" for more than thirty years.

Joseph Breck, afterwards president, and one of the original members of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, had grounds in Brighton for the cultivation of ornamental plants and the production of seeds, and his name is still continued in the firm of Joseph Breck and Sons, the oldest seed house in New England, it having existed more than fifty years, succeeding that of John B. Russell, to whom we shall allude hereafter. Mr. Breck was one of the foremost promoters of the culture of fruits and flowers, and wrote frequently for the press. He was proprietor and for some years the editor of the "Horticultural Register," and other works. His Book of Flowers has passed through many editions, and has a very wide circulation.

The nurseries and plant-houses of William C. Strong, ex-president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, are worthy of special notice for the enterprise and intelligence of their proprietor. Here, under one continuous roof of glass of 18,000 square feet, is an enclosure where plants are grown as in the open ground; where immense quantities of the rose and other flowers are daily cut for the market. The estate of Mr. Strong was once owned by Jonathan Amory, father of Hon. Thomas C. Amory, and about forty years ago was possessed by Horace Gray, of whom we have spoken in connection with the establishment of the Public Garden, in Boston. He erected on these grounds the largest grape-houses then

known in the United States, in which were grown extensively numerous varieties of foreign grapes. For the testing of these under glass in cold houses, Mr. Gray erected a large curvilinear-roof house, two hundred feet long by twenty-four wide. This was such a great success that he built two more of the same dimensions.

In addition to these, Brighton, in the early part of this century, was the residence of several celebrated agriculturists and horticulturists. Here were the orchards of Gorham Parsons, who also had others at Byfield; of S. W. Pomroy, Mr. Faneuil, Samuel Brooks, and others; and here for many years were held the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, with great success, under the patronage and supervision of such leaders as John Lowell, John Welles, Peter C. Brooks, Gen. Dearborn, Josiah Quincy, John Prince, and the gentlemen above named.

There is a splendid illustration of the wonderful progress of horticultural improvement and refined taste that cannot be omitted, and may, without detracting from any other, be considered as standing at the head of all others in New England, if not in our country. This is in Wellesley, the estate of Mr. H. Hollis Hunnewell, comprising in all, with its fields and forests, about five hundred acres, on which he commenced his operations about thirty years ago. The ornamental part contains about forty acres from which he cleared the wild growth of scrub oaks, pitch pines, and other worthless trees and shrubs before he commenced work upon it. He then laid out his splendid avenues and plots, and commenced the planting of his most interesting and instructive collection of hardy trees and plants, not only of our own country, but of all such, from California, Japan, and other lands, that would endure our climate. His collection of rhododen-

drons and azaleas, the largest in our country, embraces many thousands of plants, to which he is constantly adding everything new and rare, demonstrating, beyond doubt, that a very large number of varieties grown in Europe may be successfully cultivated in our climate. Of such as are somewhat tender he has the choicest varieties, which he stores in cool pits in the winter, planting them out in the spring under an immense canvass tent of seven thousand square feet, and these, with the whole of his magnificent estate, he opens to the public once a week gratuitously. A few years since he made, in the name of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, an exhibition of hundreds of these under an immense tent on Boston Common. The exhibition lasted for several weeks, and was visited by throngs of gratified spectators, and the income from it was generously given to constitute a fund for the Society, encouraging the growth of these plants. The avenues to this estate are planted on either side with most beautiful pines, spruces, beeches, maples, magnolias, and other trees intermixed here and there with the rarest and costliest conifers, rhododendrons, azaleas, and other flowering shrubs, all of which have been grown up within the last thirty years. Its meandering walks also planted on either side with the rarest and newest conifer and other evergreens; its various vistas, giving here and there a delightful view through different openings, are most charming. The magnificent velvet lawn in front of his house, the lovely Lake Waban in the rear, the Italian garden, the parapets, ballustrades, statues and vases, with the clipped trees of various forms, leads one to suppose, as Mr. Sargent says, "that we are on the Lake of Como." Here are fruit and vegetable gardens enclosed with ornamental hedges; a conserva-

tory attached to the house, six plant houses, and six fruit houses, and numerous and varied illustrations of ornamental beds of flowers. The whole, for twenty-seven years, has been under the charge of Mr. F. L. Harris, his gardener, and constitutes a place unsurpassed in this country for the acquisition of everything new or old in horticulture that pleases the eye, charms the senses, or gratifies the taste, affording also, with the contributions and benefactions of Mr. Hunnewell to the Horticultural Society, a noble illustration of his love of the objects which he has sought to promote.

Here, in Wellesley, is the Wellesley Female College, founded mainly by the munificence of Henry F. Durant, where is taught, as a branch of education, the science of botany and the raising of plants from seeds, and whose splendid avenues and ornamental grounds and collection of plants are happy illustrations of modern progress in horticulture.

Nor must we omit some record of the famous Ridge Hill Farm of William E. Baker, containing eight hundred and fifty acres, with its ten miles of avenues, its artificial lake, one and a half miles in circumference, its grotto under ground, one-fourth of a mile in length, several greenhouses, numerous illustrations of the artistic bedding of plants under the care of his gardener, Mr. Greaves, and to which we may add the grand hotel of two hundred and fifty rooms.

And just across the river, opposite Mr. Hunnewell's, is the fine country seat of Benjamin Pierce Cheney, whose love of horticulture and the fine arts induced him to place the grand statue of Ceres, which crowns the temple of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Mr. Hunnewell and Mr. Charles O. Whitmore, at the same time, also presenting the statues of Flora and Pomona, which adorn the corners of this building.

Watertown and Waltham have been celebrated for the residences of wealthy merchants and citizens, as far back as the last century. Belmont, at Watertown, formerly the residence of John Perkins Cushing, now the home of Samuel R. Payson, has been, and is still, one of the most celebrated places in New England if not in the United States, for its horticultural taste and improvement, having been kept up for more than half a century in the most improved manner. Here, for the last fifteen years, Mr. Payson has indulged his natural taste in the pleasures of rural life, by the acquisition and cultivation of the most beautiful fruits and flowers of the age. This estate, some sixty years ago, was the residence of Eben Preble, an old merchant of Boston, and brother of Commodore Preble. He built the brick walls still enclosing the grounds in which the present conservatories and other glass structures are located. Mr. Preble, in 1805, imported into Boston one hundred and fifty varieties of fruit trees, and so great has been the improvement in our fruits that only two of the varieties are now considered valuable. This estate passed to Nathaniel Amory, who married the daughter of Mr. Preble; thence to R. D. Shephard about 1830, in a few years to Mr. Cushing, and, after his death, about 1860, to Mr. Payson.

Mr. Cushing was a great lover of the works of nature, and, with lavish expenditures of wealth, he improved this estate in the highest sense of the word, by the laying out of the grounds and by the erection of numerous plant and fruit houses. He contributed to the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and he opened his grounds once a week to the public in the summer season, making his place the most famous in his day for horticultural progress in New England.

The present estate of Mr. Payson embraces about

two hundred acres, which, varied with its fine avenues bordered with old oak, walnut, and tulip trees (one of the last is eighty feet in height), and ornamental trees, rhododendrons, azaleas, and other shrubs, make it one of great interest. Here is a large conservatory, sixty feet wide, with fourteen other houses, devoted to the cultivation of certain classes of plants, fruits, and vegetables. Among these houses may be named a large greenhouse, two pelargonium, two orchid, one palm, one azalea, with several other houses devoted to grapes, peaches, nectarines, figs, and vegetables.

The lawn on the south of the house is magnificent, containing about twenty acres, on and around which are some of the finest purple beeches in the land. On these premises are several gnarled old oaks, and a deciduous cypress of great age, and also a park well stocked with deer.

Opposite Mr. Payson's is the handsome old place of William Pratt, which has for a long course of years been kept in a fine condition by his heirs, under the supervision of his son, George W. Pratt, one of the early vice-presidents of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and since his death by Miss Mary Pratt, who still, at an advanced age, preserves its former reputation with good taste and enterprise. The conservatory of choice plants, the graperies, peach house, the orchard and garden, are perpetuated from year to year in excellent order.

Near by is the elegant villa and estate of the late Alvin Adams, renowned for his enterprise and success as the founder of the great Adams Express Company. His extensive lawns and ornamental grounds, together with his valuable picture gallery, have made this place one of the most attractive in the vicinity of

Boston, where the generous hospitality of its proprietor was abundantly dispensed, as it is now by his heirs.

The orchards and gardens on this side of our city were noted a long time ago for their extent, and the excellence of their fruit. Here was the home of Josiah Stickney, ex-president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, where his heirs still reside. Although a merchant in active business, he found time to plant an extensive pear orchard and a garden, from which, under his personal care, he brought forth some of the finest fruits that have been on exhibition. Before his removal from Boston, his love of flowers led him to establish a small garden on Tremont street, north of the Masonic Temple, where, forty years ago, he cultivated the dahlia extensively, frequently carrying off prizes for the excellence of his specimens. Desirous of promoting the cause of horticulture, he made a bequest of his estate at Watertown to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for an experimental garden, but afterwards revoked this gift and gave the sum of twelve thousand dollars to the society, the income of which was to be devoted for thirty years for the purchase of books for its library, then to be transferred to the Lawrence Scientific School at Cambridge.

Col. Leonard Stone was a prominent cultivator in his day, and largely interested in the promotion of both agriculture and horticulture. He was a member of the Massachusetts Agricultural Club, and had frequent intercourse with Mr. Cushing, both as a friend and an adviser.

In Waltham, was the splendid estate of Gov. Christopher Gore, which was considered in former times as among the most elegant in our vicinity. The Governor, while residing in England as commissioner for the adjustment of claims under the Jay treaty, evidently

imbibed a taste for the life of a country gentleman, and acquired a knowledge of the then accepted style of building and landscape gardening; his house and grounds were arranged strictly on an English model. The estate comprised several hundred acres, in the middle of which was what was called the "Home Field," where stood the mansion, the plan of which was considered most admirable and aristocratic, and in the most approved style. The drawing room was furnished in the gay and graceful fashion of Louis XVI.; the other rooms with substantial rich mahogany, much of it of the old ante-revolutionary type, the whole being complete and elegant. A straight avenue, shaded by double rows of trees, conducted the visitor to this stately abode; shady walks radiated from the house to the east and west, secluding it upon all sides except one opening that permitted a view of the river a half mile across the lawn and the fields beyond it. The trees which bordered the avenues and walks and ornamented the grounds were tastefully grouped, occasionally converting the walks into Gothic aisles, one of which formed a vista from the east window of the library. The tradition is that the Governor and Mrs. Gore planted many of these trees with their own hands. The Governor was fond of agricultural pursuits and was an ardent amateur farmer, having in addition to his fruit, flower and vegetable garden, extensive fields under cultivation, and a large group of barns and farm buildings. From this elegant mansion might be seen the Governor taking an airing in his orange-colored coach, with coachman, footman, and outriders all in livery, and with a stateliness quite in keeping with his fine place.¹

This place, on the death of Gov. Gore, passed into

¹ Letter of Col. Henry Lee.

the hands of William Payne, then to Gen. Theodore Lyman, and on the latter's removal to Brookline, to Copley Greene. Now it is a place distinguished for numerous glass structures, for the growth of fruits, flowers, and vegetables, and for the excellent condition in which its grounds and their appurtenances are kept by its present owner, Mr. T. W. Walker. Waltham was much developed by the enterprise of Messrs. Lowell and Patrick Jackson; there, also, Dr. James Jackson had a lovely place, and Judge Jackson for a few years held the Gore place by lease.

Another place is especially worthy of notice in Waltham. "Lyman Place," the home of Theodore Lyman, one of Boston's renowned merchants, where he and his eldest son, George W. Lyman, lived from 1795 until their deaths,—the latter having died Sep. 24, 1880, aged 93 years, 10 months. This estate was bought in 1793, and the mansion house erected in 1795. The first greenhouse was built about 1800, and divided into two parts, in which were raised pineapples, bananas, and other tropical fruits, and among the ornamental plants the yellow Mimosa (*Acacia*) which was then considered very elegant. Mr. Lyman brought over a celebrated English gardener by the name of Bell. He commenced laying out and grading the grounds, which took several seasons to finish, but when completed they were the finest illustration in the country of modern landscape gardening in their time; "bearing witness," says Mr. Henry W. Sargent, "to a refined and elegant taste in rural improvement. Its fine level park a mile in length, was enriched with groups of English limes, elms and oaks, and masses of native wood, watered by a fine stream, and stocked with deer, were the leading features of the place at that time. The oldest of these trees were set out early in this century, and are still in

a healthful condition." "The peculiar thing," says Col. Theodore Lyman, his grandson, "is that my grandfather, son of a poor country clergyman in Old York, and compelled to work hard from boyhood, should have had the tastes of a refined man of leisure in a matter of landscape gardening. Considering the immense difficulty of doing such a thing in those days, there is nobody near Boston now who is doing as much as he did."¹

Charlestown, in the early part of this century, was distinguished for its good gardens and fine fruits. Here was a part of the estate of Nathan Tufts, who had a fine fruit garden, now occupied by the Rev. Dr. Lambert, Rector of St. John's Church. Another fine residence was that of Eben Breed, now the site of Mount Vernon street, with garden, greenhouse and a small orchard. Among the finest places on the peninsula about the year 1800, was that of the Hon. Samuel Dexter, which afterwards passed to Matthew Bridge, and H. Davidson, and is now owned by Rhodes Lockwood, who occupies a part of it. It had a fine garden of fruit and ornamental trees, grape vines, and a greenhouse. On this estate are now the handsome grounds of the Hon. T. T. Sawyer and the Hon. Edward Lawrence. The father of the Hon. George Washington Warren had a large garden of fruit trees and plants. John Hurd, and William Hurd had good gardens. Mr. James Hunnewell had a fine estate, now occupied by his son, our esteemed citizen, James F. Hunnewell. This estate still retains its former size, with many of the original trees and plants. Mr. James Hunnewell was an enterprising and intelligent merchant, and visited the Sandwich Islands three times during his life, spending several

¹ Letters of George W. Lyman and Col. Theodore Lyman.

years there, and established in 1826 the mercantile house which still exists, and though passing through several parties since, it now has a good standing, and is, we believe, one of, if not the oldest American houses existing there.¹

Among other gardens was that of Hon. Charles Thompson, whose father was an experienced cultivator of fruits. It is still among the largest and best in the town. The Navy Yard has a large garden for fruits and flowers. The grounds of the Ursuline Convent on Mount Benedict were once extensive in their orchards and shade trees. In Charlestown, also, was the "Vineyard" under the care of David Haggerston, one of the pioneers of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and afterwards the gardener of John P. Cushing, at Watertown. This garden was an experimental one, and devoted almost exclusively to the testing of foreign varieties of the grape in open ground, and other small fruits, and here was first introduced the famous Keen's Seedling strawberry from Europe. Here was a greenhouse containing a fine collection of the Camellia, where the writer saw this elegant plant in bloom for the first time in his life. Another garden devoted to the cultivation of fruits and flowers was that of Samuel R. Johnson, who, forty years ago, was one of the most successful cultivators and exhibitors of fruits and flowers.

There have been many other fine gardens in Charlestown, but most of those of which we have spoken have been built upon. Outside of the peninsula was the estate of Joseph Barrell, on the present site of the McLean Asylum, which was one of the most distinguished in our region.² It had large gardens and greenhouses, which cost about fifty thousand dollars, and in those

¹ Mr. J. F. Hunnewell's letter.

² Drake's Middlesex, p. 177.

days was called a "show place." It was called Pleasant Hill, probably the same as Poplar Grove, and was called Cobble Hill in the Revolution. Mr. Barrell had a fine garden in Summer street, in Boston. He also drained and planted a garden at the lower part of Franklin street, and owned the famous "Mystic farms." He was a very enterprising man, and one of the company which owned the ships *Columbia* and *Washington*, that first crossed the bar of the great river of Oregon, now bearing the name of one of these vessels, on our Pacific coast.¹

Horticulture had a cordial reception in the early days of Medford, even back as far as the building of the house of Mathew Craddock. The "Royall house," once occupied by Col. Isaac Royall, though not so old, stood in the midst of grounds laid out in elegant taste, and embellished with fruit trees and shrubbery, walks bordered with box, and a summer-house surmounted by a cupola, and a statue of Mercury.² This estate was purchased in 1810 by Jacob Tidd, who afterwards removed to West Roxbury, and exhibited at the rooms of the Horticultural Society the Horatio or Nice grape, weighing over six pounds to the bunch. Mr. Royall died in 1739, leaving the property to his son Isaac, and by the name of Royall it is still known. There were many fine gardens in Medford in our own day; such were those of Timothy Bigelow, Peter C. Brooks, Thatcher Magoun, and others who were interested in horticultural pursuits, and had good gardens and greenhouses.

West Cambridge, Arlington, Lexington, Concord, Wilmington, Winchester, Woburn, Reading, Revere, and other towns in our vicinity, have been prominent in promoting the science of horticulture during the present cen-

¹ Old Landmarks, p. 254.

² Drake's Middlesex County, Vol. 2, p. 165.

tury; and from them we have derived not only fine fruits and flowers, but the choicest vegetables which are to be seen in any markets of the world. From Wilmington came the world-renowned Baldwin apple, which constitutes the largest portion of the apples exported from our market, filling more than three-fourths of the six hundred thousand barrels that are sent annually abroad. The history of this apple is as follows : *

WOBURN, Sept. 28, 1880.

MR. WOODMAN: Dear Sir,—Your note of the 26th inst. was received, asking me to give you the account my grandfather, Samuel Thompson, Esq., gave me of the Baldwin apple. In reply I will say he was a surveyor of land, and while he was on duty one fall day in a pasture, in the town of Wilmington, near a road called Butters Row Road, he came across a tree with fine looking apples thereon. The tree was hollow with decay, and a woodpecker bird found a place for her nest therein. He said he carried home some of the fruit and gave his brother Abijah some of it, and they were so highly pleased with it that they procured a lot of scions from the tree and set them in the trees around their homes, and they soon began to yield fruit; and they gave some to Col. Baldwin, their neighbor; and he valued them so highly he went into them deeply and spread them around among his friends broadcast, and they had no name for them and of course they gave them his name. While they were in the Thompsons' hands they were called Pecker apples, after the old bird. The tree stood in Wilmington, near Butters Row Road.

LEONARD THOMPSON,

92 years, 4 months.

Of the Baldwin apple, Deacon Thomas Griggs, of Brookline, now in his ninety-fourth year, writes: "Seventy years ago I employed a man by the name of Tufts, to graft. He came from Woburn and brought scions called the Pecker apple. He said Mr. Baldwin, when surveying for the canal, found a tree on the edge of the wood which was almost killed by woodpeckers,

* Letter of Col. Leonard Thompson to Hon. Charles Woodman. [See note to Mr. Adams's chapter in Boston Memorial, Vol. IV.] Brooks's Medford, p. 19, places the tree in that town near the Woburn line. See also Ellis's Count Rumford, pp. 375-77.

but had on it a very few nice red apples. From this tree he cut scions and from it sprang the Baldwin apple."

From the farm of the Hon. John Cummings, of Woburn, were sent the present year two thousand barrels of apples to Liverpool, most of which were Baldwins; large quantities of fruits and vegetables for the market were also raised there, among which may be named seventy-five thousand beautiful heads of the cauliflower, produced in one year.

From Concord comes some of the finest roses, strawberries, grapes, and vegetables, which grace our exhibitions; but, if it had produced nothing else but the Concord grape, its name, and that of Mr. Ephraim W. Bull, its originator, would have been remembered with gratitude. Her soil, once fertilized by the blood of her sons, yields rich rewards for protecting and making it more and more worthy of protection, and her name will ever be memorable in history as the spot where the British soldiery were repulsed and driven back, on the nineteenth of April, 1775.

One of the most conspicuous and extensive places as regards horticultural improvement and landscape gardening, and interesting also for its historic associations, is that of the Hon. Francis B. Hayes, at Lexington, president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. It is only nineteen years since he purchased the estate of about thirteen acres on which his house now stands. But the estate now embraces in one compact body, near the centre of the town, and yet retired, between four and five hundred acres of hill and dale, forest, beautiful landscape pasture and arable fields seldom surpassed in New England. A portion of this estate belonged to the Rev. John Hancock, who was the grandfather of the patriot of the same name. An

ancient house built by the son of the above-named clergyman for his father, and afterwards occupied by Rev. Mr. Clark, on Hancock street, still stands nearly opposite to Mr. Hayes's place. Here Samuel Adams and John Hancock were visiting on the morning of the Battle of Lexington, April 19th, 1775, and at the same time Miss Dorothy Quincy, afterwards the wife of Gov. Hancock, was a guest. Adams and Hancock, hearing of the approach of the British troops, fled over the hills to Burlington; and it was on one of these hills, as tradition has it, that Samuel Adams exclaimed,—“What a glorious morning is this!” The highest eminence on Mr. Hayes's estate has been known for a century as Granny Hill, being one of the loftiest, if not the highest, in Middlesex county, from which the Mount Wachuset in Princeton, and Mount Monadnock in New Hampshire, are clearly visible. The scenery is not only wild and beautiful but grand, being diversified by ravines, precipices, and fertile valleys below. On the top of this hill is a pond of about two acres, made by Mr. Hayes, and supplied by living streams, from which water is carried all over the estate. The aim of Mr. Hayes has been to follow nature, making no attempt to produce striking effects by changing the natural formation of the ground, but only to develop its natural beauties. The extensive avenues through the forests are made with special reference to preserving the native woods and fields, and planting the borders with shrubs suited to the various locations, so as to secure harmony, both in the cultivated and the wilder growth.

Within a few years Mr. Hayes has made most rapid progress in horticultural improvement collecting extensive importations from Europe, and purchasing at home a vast quantity of ornamental trees and plants. His

collection of rhododendrons and azaleas is quite large, and in the season of bloom they are displayed under a tent fifty feet square, constructed for this purpose. Here is a magnificent new conservatory with iron curve-linear roof, sixty-five feet long, forty-two feet broad, and twenty-seven feet high in the centre. This contains many of the largest and most elegant plants in our vicinity, especially of Camellias, Mr. Hayes having secured half of the collection of the writer, some of which are more than fifty years old. Mr. Hayes has a grapery, a rosary, and large winter pits for the preservation of half hardy plants. His exhibitions at the Horticultural rooms of plants and cut flowers have carried off a large number of first class prizes as testimonials of his zeal and enterprise. Nor should we omit to state that this estate has been brought to its present extent by the purchase of lots of which Mr. Hayes has forty-nine deeds. On it he keeps eighty head of cattle and ten horses, and cuts a hundred and twenty-five to a hundred and fifty tons of hay annually, besides raising large crops of other agricultural products.

Here, in Lexington, were the farms and orchards of Major Elias Phinney and Gen. Samuel Chandler, both distinguished in the early part of this century for the culture of fine fruits, especially of the apple.

Salem should be especially remembered in our record for her interest in horticulture. Here Gov. John Endicott planted a nursery, the first of which we have any account in New England, a pear tree of which still lives and bears fruit. His farm was known as *Orchard* as early as 1643, and this tree stood near his mansion. The Governor seems to have been extensively engaged in the propagation of fruit trees, for in 1644 he wrote to Gov. Winthrop, to whom he was in the habit of sending trees: "I humblie and

heartilie thanck you for your last lettre of newes &c, for the trees you sent mee." And in 1645 he wrote to John Winthrop, Jr., at "Tenne Hills," "what trees you want at any tyme send to mee for them, I will supply you as longe as I have a tree." Horticulture seems to have been much esteemed by the wealthy people of Salem, and before the commencement of the present century her merchant vessels brought home trees, plants, and seeds from foreign lands. Mr. Ezekiel Hersey Derby had, early in the present century, an extensive garden, greenhouses, orchards, and belts of forest trees—a most elegant and delightful home. He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture.¹

The first record we have of the introduction of the tomato is, that it was brought here in 1802 by Michele Felice Corné, an Italian painter.²

The most important public benefit conferred on the Pomology of New England, if not of our whole country, was the establishment of the Pomological Garden in Salem, by Robert Manning, in 1823. This was for testing fruits, both native and foreign, and ascertaining what were adapted to our own climate. Mr. Manning opened a correspondence with the celebrated Dr. Van Mons, of Belgium, Robert Thompson, the head of the fruit department in the garden of the Horticultural Society of London, and others in Europe and our own country. From these various sources he received trees and scions to carry on his work. He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, prosecuting his labors with great enterprise and zeal till the time of his death in 1842, when the

¹ Felt's Annals of Salem, Vol. II, pp. 148 and 150.

² Felt's Annals of Salem, Vol. II, p. 631.

collection of fruits, of which he had personal observation, amounted to more than eighteen hundred varieties. He also established a nursery, and dispensed trees and scions of such as he could recommend to our own and other lands. He was a most careful observer, and to him more than to all others in our country in his day, are we indebted for the introduction of new and choice fruits, for the identification of the different varieties, the testing of their qualities, and for their correct nomenclature.

Nor would we omit to record the valuable services of the younger Robert Manning, who succeeded his father in the good work ; who has continued to identify, test, and disseminate the fruits which have, from time to time come to notice, and who still occupies the old family estate. He was one of the founders of the American Pomological Society thirty-two years ago, and is its present secretary. He is also secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and the editor of its History for the first half century of its existence.

Here, in Salem, were the garden and orchard of John Fisk Allen, a most enterprising and successful cultivator of fruits and flowers. In 1854 he raised from seed the first hybridized American grape, Allen's Hybrid, which was produced from crossing the Isabella with the foreign species. Here, also, was grown and flowered that most magnificent water lily, the *Victoria regia*, some of whose leaves were four feet in diameter, and would sustain a boy of six years of age. Its gorgeous flowers were of corresponding proportions, colored illustrations of which were published in a large, elegant folio volume, and dedicated to some of his friends.

The orchards and garden of Joseph Sebastian Cabot,

sixth president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, were distinguished for the enterprise and intelligence of its proprietor in horticulture. Mr. Cabot was much interested in the cultivation of the tulip of which he had more than six hundred varieties, the pæony, and flowering plants. His collection of pears was very extensive, and he raised several seedlings, one of which bears his name. He was a critical observer of the merits of fruits, and made a report in 1858 to the American Pomological Society, recommending the expulsion of more than six hundred varieties of fruits which were unworthy of general cultivation, and these fruits were rejected from its catalogue.

Here was the home of Col. Timothy Pickering, first president of the Essex Agricultural Society, and first secretary of the first agricultural society on this continent, the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture. Here is the extensive and well-managed farm of George B. Loring, president of the New England Agricultural Society during its whole history, who has well earned the title of "agricultural orator," and is now rewarded for his labors by the office of Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. The orchard on this farm has been famous in past time, most of the trees having been imported by Col. Pickman, its owner, early in this century, and among which were the Pickman pippin, known in its early days as the Garden apple.

Other gardens and orchards of Salem are worthy of record, did our space permit. Here were the orchards and gardens of the Dodges, Silsbees, of Charles Hoffman, Francis Peabody, and other worthy citizens. Among these may be named that of Mr. John M. Ives, one of the founders of the Horticultural Society, who still lives; the Putnams, who have been prominent as horticultu-

rists for more than fifty years, and that of John C. Lee, a relative and companion of our John L. Gardner, with whom in boyhood he early developed a love for botanical and horticultural studies, which made him one of the most enterprising and successful cultivators of fruits and flowers; from his gardener came many of the finest illustrations of horticultural science. One other garden, that of Edward S. Rogers, should be noticed for his success in the hybridization of the grape, being the second effort within our knowledge of attempts to cross the native with the foreign species. For the mother he took a wild grape of the woods, called the Mammoth, and crossed it with the Black Hamburg and White Chasselas. The crosses by the Black Hamburg produced the Barry, Essex, Herbert, Merrimac, Wilder, and other varieties, whose bunches and berries resemble the male parent. Those crossed by the White Chasselas produced the Lindley, the Massasoit, and other reddish grapes. Thus the influence of the foreign species was clearly demonstrated, and the fallacy which had been entertained that species would not cross was refuted. To Mr. Rogers are the public indebted more than to any other man, primarily, for the extensive hybridization of the grape, which now, after twenty-five years, is producing the numerous varieties of improved grapes which are yearly brought to notice.

Lynn and Beverly had fine orchards and gardens forty or fifty years since, many of which have been perpetuated to this day. Among them were those of Andrews and Henry A. Breed, who were among the founders of the Horticultural Society; Gen. Josiah Newhall, Richard S. Fay, Otis Johnson, of Lynn, and Josiah Lovett, of Beverly, who were very successful cultivators.

The grounds of Mr. Johnson were remarkable for

the neatness with which they were kept, and we well remember the remark the writer made when visiting his place, "There is a weed," which seemed to trouble him. Mr. Johnson was a zealous and enterprising horticulturist, frequently bearing off the highest prizes for his fruits. He was very successful in the culture of small fruits, especially the strawberry. On a bed of less than seven thousand feet of land he produced, of Hovey's Seedling, seven hundred quarts of fruit, being equal to four thousand five hundred quarts to the acre.¹ The foreign grapes were here grown with great success, a regular diary of his process being published.

Among the most enterprising horticulturists of Lynn, and those interested in the growth of fruits, were the Breeds. In speaking of its progress, Mr. Henry A. Breed, says, "fifty-six years ago, there were but four varieties of pears, and very few trees in Lynn, and but few flowers, now there are upwards of forty-five thousand pear trees, bearing almost every variety of fruit, and a flower garden may be seen in almost every man's yard. I built the first greenhouse, and now there are upwards of fifty, and many of them are quite large. I helped to set out the first shade trees in streets; now almost every street has them on each side. Since that time, I have graded thirty-four streets at my own expense." Mr. Breed still lives, at about eighty-three years of age.

Coming nearer on the North Shore, among the most remarkable instances of success were the efforts of the late Frederic Tudor,² at Nahant. Mr. Tudor

¹ "Hovey's Magazine," XV., p. 411.

² HON. M. P. WILDER:

NAHANT, Oct. 2d, 1863.

DEAR SIR, — It is one of the misfortunes of a man any way distinguished for anything which claims the admiration of his fellow-men, to be continually teased and harrassed by the great mass of ignorant and stupid people, on the subject for which he is noted.

was called the "Ice King," being the first to establish that trade on an extensive scale in our commerce. Here on this rough and rock-bound coast, over whose bold promontory the dashing waves and surging spray continue still to beat, he commenced a large garden on a spot without a tree or shrub upon it; and by enclosing it with high, double-pale fences to break the wind, he succeeded in producing many fine fruits. In the year 1849 he exhibited a basket of Louise Bonne of Jersey pears, one of which measured over ten inches in circumference, and weighed thirteen and three-fourths ounces. The trees and vines of this garden, which the writer visited a few years since, were then in a healthful and productive condition. Mr. Tudor attached to the pears of which we have spoken the following note: "The whole circumference of ten fruits

This must be my excuse for writing this note, and inviting your attention to a small basket of fruit produced at this place.

What I would principally call your attention to is a fruit, a seedling, resembling the Seckel, but produced from a tree growing entirely different from the Seckel, and having thorns not worked. Also to three pears, which have this year been produced from trees varying in age from twenty to sixty years. A cluster of Brown Beurrès; of these I have three trees, which bore perfect fruit *for the first time* in thirteen years, although every year they have produced fruit; all the previous years the fruit has been bad. Two fruits of the old St. Germain, so rare as almost to be forgotten. Of these I have a few dozen, produced on an old free stock tree, which this year, for the first time in a long course of years, has produced no good fruit.

Three fruits of the old St. Michael, or White Doyennè, the product of old trees which I brought here thirteen years ago, and which have every year produced fruit, but always crooked and spotted. This year there is a near approach to good specimens. A few specimens of my other fruit to fill the basket, although I am sending coals to Newcastle.

This has been a year of too redundant production, partly owing to the absence of production last year, and partly to the great quantity of rain we have had during the summer.

It has been a year for producing large-sized fruit, but of low flavor. I hope the Horticultural Society will appoint a competent person to write something on the last season, and the cause of the restoration of the lost fruits, which I suppose other gentlemen have experienced besides myself.

I am, very truly,

FREDERIC TUDOR.

in this basket is eight feet, one and a half inches; weight of the same, seven pounds four and three-fourths ounces; the tree, a dwarf, bore ninety-five fruits."

At Swampscott are the beautiful and extensive grounds of the Hon. E. R. Mudge,¹ and many other estates celebrated for their elegance and ornamental culture, and we are glad to know that Mr. Mudge and other wealthy gentlemen are constantly adding to the improvement and adornment of their summer residences on the sea-side.

Going a little further inland to the west we find Dedham, in former days noted for many fine residences, among which were those of Fisher Ames, the distinguished orator, statesman, and moralist of his day, and Edward Dowse, one of the first merchants who opened the trade between the United States and China. These gentlemen were much interested in horticulture, and planted some of the beautiful elms and other trees which adorn her streets. They had orchards, and gardens, and ice houses, which were considered as rare luxuries in those days.

In 1793, Mr. Ames writes to Thomas Dwight: "I have just begun to display my taste as a gardener;" in 1794, "I have been to see Mr. Gore's place; I do not expect to build a smarter;" in 1795, "the time of my men is so taken up by the masons, my garden is full of weeds;" and again, "I am trying to raise new breeds of potatoes from seed." 1799, to Gov. Gore: "Do I bore you on the subject of husbandry? Paine says, Gen. Heath gets three thousand dollars a year by the vegetables, &c., from his farm. I solicit the honor of being appointed to the post of privy counsellor, or secretary of your cabbage and squash department." And again to Gore, same year: "Cider is dear. It is better to look for our drink to our trees, than to our ploughs."

¹ Since writing the above, Mr. Mudge has deceased.

In 1802 he writes: "I have sought pleasure among my trees."

The estate of Mr. Dowse, by the will of his widow, became the property of her nephew, Josiah Quincy, who gave it to his youngest son, the late Edmund Quincy, who bequeathed it to his second son, Dr. Henry P. Quincy, and his daughter Mary, who now reside there.

The example of Fisher Ames has been followed by others who have been engaged in the promotion of horticulture. Among these may be named Edward M. Richards, Ebenezer Wight and Edward S. Rand, Jr., all of whom held the office of recording secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Dr. Wight was one of the most eminent cultivators of the apple; proving under his own observation, the numerous varieties as they came to notice, and distributing scions of the same to all applicants. Edward S. Rand, Senior, promoted the advancement of horticulture by the adornment of his beautiful estate; and his excellent collection of greenhouse and orchid plants, of which we have spoken before. His son Edward, whose grounds and houses for the culture of fruits and flowers, his collection of orchids, and his contributions to our exhibitions, were of a notable character. The efforts of Col. Eliphalet Stone, for more than thirty years, in promoting the culture of fruits, are still continued, dispensing now, as ever, the results of his careful experience for the benefit of the public. Dedham was the home of the Norfolk Agricultural Society, whose presidency, for the first twenty years, was vested in the writer, and which greatly promoted by its exhibitions the horticulture of our vicinity.

Turning to the South Shore for a hasty glance, we find Braintree, including then what is now Quincy, was,

from the first settlement of Boston, turned to use by many of its citizens for farm and pasture-lands. In due time, some of its wealthier owners, and more enterprising occupants, introduced orchards and gardens. Among these, besides the Adamses, Hancocks, and William Coddington, was the first comer of the distinguished Quincy family, Edmund Quincy. His estate originally consisted of a thousand acres. He died in 1636, at the age of 33, just after he had built a house on what is now Mt. Wollaston. His son, of the same name, who died in 1697, inherited the estate, and planted an orchard, of which some apple trees still remain. Judge Edmund Quincy, its next owner, a fine lime tree of whose planting has come down to our time, dying in London, the property came to his son, Col. Josiah Quincy, who, about the year 1770, had upon it gardens and orchards, with a rich collection of French pears. The son of the colonel, the eminent patriot, known as Josiah Quincy, Jr., dying in early manhood, left an only son, the late honored Josiah Quincy, Mayor of Boston, and President of Harvard University, to whom his grandfather, dying in 1784, bequeathed the estate. The president, who lived to a venerable age, devoted intervals during his public life, and his retirement from it, to the care, adornment and enrichment of the 350 acres which came to his possession. He was fond of natural beauty, and of agricultural improvements, and laid out his grounds with much taste. He planted in 1790 an avenue a third of a mile in length, of six rows of elms, and two of ash trees, still thriving, besides more than a mile and a half of hedge.¹ When President Quincy was in congress, in 1809, he obtained from an English gardener,

¹ Miss Eliza S. Quincy's letter.

Mayn, established at Georgetown, D. C., plants of the American hedge-thorn (*Buckthorn*), which he set double in his avenue for a third of a mile. After flourishing many years this hedge was eradicated in 1850. Mr. Quincy also obtained from Mayn the Burgundy, York and Lancaster roses, the Bignonia Radicans, then rare in this vicinity, and other plants. He found his attempts to introduce here the principles of English agriculture very troublesome and costly. He continued his interest in fruit, and when past his fourscore years, called on the writer to purchase trees of the Winter Nelis pear. On being told that it was a slender and slow grower, he replied, "That is of little consequence to such young fellows as myself." He had a fine herd on his farm, and wrote one of the best treatises on the "Soiling of Cattle," which was published at the request of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture. In 1849 and 1852, it was revised by Mr. Quincy, and was republished in the Transactions of the Norfolk Agricultural Society, of which he was a member, and reprinted again in 1860, in Flint's State Agricultural Report. Mr. Quincy was fond of every improvement, and had one of the first mowing machines introduced into New England. He passed the last summer of his life on his farm, where he died, July 1, 1864, in his 93d year, in the house and apartment of his grandfather, Col. Josiah Quincy, leaving to his daughter, Miss Eliza S. Quincy, and two of her sisters, life estates in his house and grounds around it, where they now reside. To his eldest son, the present Hon. Josiah Quincy, ex-president of the Massachusetts senate, and ex-mayor of Boston, he bequeathed his farm with a house erected in 1850, who also carried it on for a few years, and where, in 1881, he resides in a green old age, with his children and grandchildren around him.

In Braintree, was the residence of Benjamin V. French, a vice-president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, eminent for his devotion to horticulture and agricultural pursuits. His collection of fruits embraced most of the varieties which gave promise of being good, especially of the apple, of which he had one of the most extensive collections in New England, and for the encouragement and culture of this fruit he left a bequest which amounted, in time, to the sum of about twenty-five hundred dollars, the annual income of which was to be appropriated for this purpose. This fund was established originally by the members of the Massachusetts Agricultural Club, and other friends, and was to revert to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society after the decease of Mr. French and his wife; which have both already taken place. Mr. French was much interested in the improvement of rural cemeteries, especially of Mount Auburn, which from the first, he was one of its earliest friends and promoters.

Hingham was much interested in the cultivation of the soil and the improvement of fruits, a hundred years ago. Among her farmers was Benjamin Lincoln, the father of Gen. Benjamin Lincoln, himself a farmer, who under the favor of Washington had the honor of receiving the surrender of the British army at Yorktown a hundred years ago,—an event which has just been celebrated with great display and manifestations of public rejoicing. Early in this century the Herseys and Burrs had nurseries, and did much for horticulture; but to no one of her sons is she so much indebted for progress in terraculture as to the late Albert Fearing, president and founder of its Agricultural Society, and donor of the Agricultural Hall and the Free Library Hall. Much attention has been given to planting of shade trees on the streets,

and almost every house has its garden of fruits and flowers. Its beautiful cemetery, for which Dr. R. I. P. Fiske did so much in ornamental culture, is still further improved by Mr. Todd. Here rest the remains of John Albion Andrew, the "war Governor" and friend of human freedom. Nor would we forget that Hingham is still the home of the venerable Solomon Lincoln, the historian, and of our beloved and accomplished chief magistrate, Gov. John Davis Long.

A history of our horticulture would be considered as deficient without some notice of the literature which has been connected with it, and as agriculture is the mother of horticulture it is natural that its publications should precede it. The first work of the kind published in our State was the *New England Farmer or Georgical Dictionary*, by Dr. Samuel Deane, in 1790. Then came the *Massachusetts Agricultural Repository*, 1793; the *American Gardener*, by Thomas Green Fessenden, in 1822; a *Treatise on the Cultivation of Flowers*, by Roland Greene, in 1828; and the *Book of Fruits*, by Robert Manning, in 1838. Subsequent to these, several other works on horticulture and agriculture, as well as magazines and the reports of societies of other States and from foreign lands were accessible to those who sought for them. Among these may be named the *Transactions of the Philadelphia and Massachusetts Societies for Promoting Agriculture*; *Thacher's American Orchardist*, of 1821; *The New England Farmer*, by Thomas Green Fessenden, in 1822; *The New American Orchardist*, by William Kenrick; *The Massachusetts Ploughman*; *The Boston Cultivator*. But it was not until the establishment of the *American Gardener's Magazine*, P. B. Hovey and Charles M. Hovey, editors, in 1835, that a regular publication on Horticulture was published in New Eng-

land. Of this there were thirty-four volumes issued. Mr. C. M. Hovey published his *Fruits of America* in two elegant volumes. At the same time came the *Horticultural Register*, by Joseph Breck, and his popular *Book on Flowers*, and *Tilton's Journal of Horticulture*, Robert Manning, editor. To these may be added a *Treatise on the Culture of the Grape*, by John Fisk Allen; the *American Fruit Book*, by Samuel W. Cole; the *Culture of the Grape*, by William C. Strong, and the annual reports and publications of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, with its extensive and magnificent library, which is acknowledged by all to be one of the best horticultural libraries in the world. And in this connection we should also record the fact that Horticultural Hall has no equal in elegance and convenience within our knowledge; and to crown all, we have the *History of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society* for its first half century, embodying much of the history and progress to which we have alluded.

Nor can we close this chapter without recognizing with gratitude the efforts of the men who laid the foundations of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, of the American Pomological Society, and particularly of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and especially the labors of John B. Russell, the only survivor of those mentioned in the act of incorporation, who also established the first general seed store in Boston more than fifty years ago, and has devoted a long life to the promotion of horticultural science.

Nor would we refrain from noticing the influence which was, primarily, here created by the efforts of our first settlers in promoting the higher branches of terraculture, and which has now been extended

wherever the foot of civilization has been planted on our continent.

Some reference should also be made to the amazing progress, within the age of some who still survive, of agriculture, of which horticulture and rural art are only parts. Nor would it be generous or truthful did we fail to record the fact that much of this onward march may be primarily traced to Boston and its vicinity. And this is not the result of chance. It is the natural result arising from the teachings of such pioneers as I have alluded to, in the founding of institutions like the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, the Horticultural Society, the American Pomological Society, and other kindred associations. How astonishing the progress in our own day! It is not a hundred years since the first Agricultural society was formed on this continent. It is little more than fifty years since the first Horticultural society was established in our land. Now these societies are scattered from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Dominion to the Gulf of Mexico, numbering nearly two thousand kindred institutions, all actively engaged in promoting the cultivation of the soil, and in the enrichment of its products.

Fifty years ago the products of our soil were scarcely thought worthy of a place in the statistics of our country. Now our exports of these amount to nearly six hundred millions of dollars annually, and our western granaries are treasure houses upon which the world may draw to supply deficiencies elsewhere. Then the supply of fruits in our market, excepting apples, was limited to a few varieties and to a few weeks of use. Now our markets abound with fruits for all seasons of the year. Then almost the only strawberry in our market was the wild strawberry of the field, and that limited to a short

season. Now we have in variety these delicious fruits, by the facilities of transportation, for two or three months, receiving from the South in a single day five thousand bushels, and from the single city of Norfolk, in Virginia, sixteen thousand bushels, and from our own town of Dighton ten thousand bushels in a year. Then not a single hybridized fruit of the strawberry had been produced, so far as we know, in our land; now so great has been the increase in this period that my register contains the names of nearly four hundred kinds of strawberries that have been under cultivation in my day. Then there were no American grapes cultivated in our gardens except here and there a vine of the Catawba and Isabella; now there are more than two hundred varieties of American grapes in cultivation, and grapes may be had from our shops during more than half of the year; and so extensive are our vineyards that, in addition to the production of the grape for the table, California alone produces ten millions of gallons of wine, of which large quantities have been exported to Europe, South America and Mexico, some of which is mulled over and returned for consumption.

Then the cultivation of the pear was limited to a few varieties, since which the gardens of Manning, Hovey, the writer and others have embraced more than eight hundred varieties of this noble fruit. Then no exports of fruit of any note had been made. Now, Boston alone has shipped over six hundred thousand barrels of apples in a year, and the export of fruit from this country has amounted to nearly three millions of dollars in a year.

Did space permit, we should allude to the wonderful exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural, the American Pomological, and other societies. Nor can we omit to mention the grand improvement in orna-

mental culture which has taken place in our own vicinity during this period. Then we had no such splendid villas and grounds as Messrs. Hunnewell's, Payson's, Sargent's, Gray's, Hayes's and others, which are such an honor to our Commonwealth and country.

We should also record the fact, in connection with the history of horticulture, that although we live in a comparatively cold and uncongenial clime, and labor under great disadvantages, yet the enterprise, energy, and perseverance of our cultivators, has more than counterbalanced all obstacles, and compels our reluctant soils to yield rich rewards for our toil. Horticulture as an art is carried to as high a state of perfection here as in any other part of our country, and we delight to repeat this sentiment, so happily expressed by our poet Holmes :

“ So on our rude and wintry soil
We feed the kindling flame of art,
And steal the tropics' blushing spoil
To bloom on Nature's icy heart.”

Another strong evidence of improved taste is the establishment and adornment of our Cemeteries. Mount Auburn at Cambridge, Forest Hills at Roxbury, and Woodlawn at Chelsea, are happy illustrations of refined taste and culture. The neglected and gloomy resting-places of the dead, which once cast horror and terror on the minds of children, and even those of older years, are fast giving way to the shady retreats and sylvan scenes of the garden and forest. Where formerly only decaying grass, tangled weeds, and moss-covered tablets were generally to be seen, may now be witnessed beautiful sites, natural scenery, and embellished lots, that awaken sensations which no language can describe,—where the meandering path leads to the spot in which rest the remains of the loved and lost,—where the rustling pine mournfully sighs

in the passing breeze, the willow weeps in responsive grief, and where the evergreen, breathing in perennial life, is a fit emblem of those celestial fields where the leaf shall never wither, and the flower never fade.

The general use of flowers, from the cradle to the grave, affords striking proofs of a high state of civilization and refinement. Within our own recollection, the use of flowers at funerals or in the sanctuary was deemed improper with the sanctity of divine worship.

These have been too often considered as the mere superfluities of life, but the more we are brought into communion with them, the more will our souls be inspired with gratitude to Him who clothes the fields with floral gems scarcely less brilliant than the glittering host above. Nor can we too highly appreciate that wisdom and benevolence which surrounds us with these beautiful manifestations of perfection and glory,

“Mingled and made by love to one great end.”

But horticulture includes more than the finest fruits or flowers, or the neatest and most skilful cultivation.

From the time of the heathen mythologists, and the wise King Solomon when “he made orchards and gardens, and planted all kinds of fruits,” the praises of the garden have been perpetuated through all ages. From scenes in the garden, from Eden to Gethsemane, have been drawn the most exalted and sublime conceptions, the most sacred and divine communings that have ever moved the heart of man — the garden where man may commune with its Maker and admire the beauty and glory of His works. “The garden,” says Lord Bacon, “is the purest of human pleasures, and the greatest refreshment to the spirit of man, without which buildings and palaces are

but gross handiworks." "No one," said Daniel Webster, "is too polished to see its beauty, nothing too refined to be capable of its enjoyment. It is a constant field where taste and refinement may find opportunity for gratification." Said Mr. Winthrop: "Horticulture is in its most comprehensive sense, one of the fine arts of common life. It distributes its productions with equal hand to the rich and the poor. It decorates the dwelling of the humblest laborer with undoubted originals by the oldest masters, and places within his daily view fruit pieces such as Van Huysum never painted, and landscapes such as Poussin could only copy."

So thought Cyrus when he boasted of having planted his trees with his own hands; so Maximillian, "If you could see the fruits I cultivate with my own hand, you would not talk to me of empire." And so thought our own Pickering, Lowell, Colman, Dearborn, Downing, and others of our own time, who have retired from the scenes of city life that they might enjoy the rich gifts which bounteous nature bestows on the culture of the soil.

Thus we have, as briefly as possible, traced the history and progress of the horticulture of Boston and its vicinity for the last two hundred and fifty years, from the time when William Blaxton planted his orchard on our Capitoline Hill, — from the time when Endicott, Winthrop, and the colonists of Massachusetts Bay brought with them the seeds and stones from which, primarily, arose the taste for fine fruits, beautiful flowers, and the ornamental culture which has made our region so distinguished in the annals of terraculture. Slowly, but positively, has this taste been gradually improving, until Boston and its vicinity have become beautiful and eminent for horticultural

progress, a progress which has been for the last fifty years wonderful. Fruits which were then, at the beginning of the present century considered as good, have no place in our gardens or in our catalogues now. Well do we remember the time when there was no other strawberry or native grape except the wild varieties, not a Black Tartarian nor Downer cherry, not a Bartlett, Duchesse d'Angouleme, or Beurrè d'Anjou pear, not a forced fruit or flower from the hot-house for sale in our market, and not a shop for the sale of flowers in our city. And although we may regret the loss of the numerous fine gardens which once graced our city, sparkling like gems on the breast of beauty, we are more than compensated for the loss by the wide-spread interest which now pervades our land, and furnishes us daily with fruits and flowers fit to grace the table of a king.

Our fine gardens have been supplanted by temples of commerce, manufactures, science, literature, and religion. But however great the fame of old Boston may be for her benevolent institutions, however renowned she may become for other attainments, we believe she will be gratefully remembered for her lead in the science of the soil, and that, through all coming time, the history of Boston horticulture will be fragrant with the memories of the past, and we fondly hope that—

“The scent of the roses will hang round it still.”

In the beauty and often gorgeous array of flowers, we have presented to us the striking and sublimely impressive fact that there is more of richness and variety in these growths, with no utilitarian purpose except to minister to delight, than in all the so-called products of Nature. It is as if its Great Author and

Designer proclaimed to us, that after the use of all the original elements, for every need of man and beast,— for sustenance, clothing and shelter,— there was a rich surplus to be turned to the gentle and loving service of refining tastes and innocent joys.

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